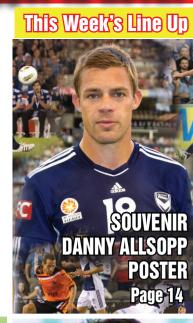
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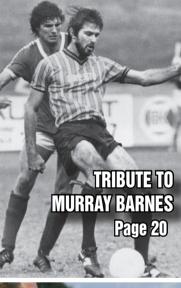






















Vale Michael Weinstein, AM, BEM, 28.1.1922-31.12.2011

By Roy Hay

Michael Weinstein, AM, BEM, who served as a senior football administrator in Australia for 25 years, passed away on New Year's Eve. He was 89.

Weinstein played a significant role in the establishment of the Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) in 1961 and was a key figure in the negotiations leading to the lifting of Australia's suspension by FIFA in 1963. He became Vice-President of the ASF from 1975 to 1986.

Weinstein was a member of the Local Organising Committee for the 1981 FIFA World Youth Cup staged in Australia and was a delegate to the Australian Olympic Committee. He was a life member of the Victorian Soccer Federation, Football Federation Victoria and the ASF. He was a Member of both the Football Federation Australia (FFA) and FFV Halls of Fame and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1977 for his services to sport and the Australia Medal in 1986 for his services to football.

The medal for the best Under-16 player in Victoria each year is named in his honour. Football Federation Australia CEO

Ben Buckley today paid tribute to Michael Weinstein's exceptional contribution in a time of great change for football.

"We know that football was in a state of upheaval in the 1960s and needed a steadying influence as the administration was re-built from scratch. Clearly, Michael Weinstein played a significant role in that regard in Victoria and on a national level," said Buckley.

ne was deservedly recognised



Michael Weinstein. Phot: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

the club.

He was part of a group who were dissatisfied with the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association (VASFA). He was heavily involved in the replacement of VASFA by the VSF in 1962, both as a leader of the clubs seeking change and helping to negotiate the settlement which was reached.

He worked closely with Theo Mar-

maras to bring this about in a way which ensured continuity between the old and the new body. He was appointed as one of the Treasurers of the VSF in 1963. He helped purchase Soccer House in St Kilda, the VSF's first home.

Michael Weinstein became Chair of the State League Management Committee in 1965 and '66 became a Trustee of the Federation.

He chaired the VSF Reorganisation Committee in 1966 which produced a major report recommending significant changes in the organisation of the game in Victoria, many of which were successfully implemented.

In 1967, Weinstein took over as Chairman of the Board of Management, a role he held until 1986, apart from a brief interlude in 1970-72. He presided over a period of fundamental changes in the game as the focus switched from the states to national and international activity

In business he was a major shareholder in Glenvill Pty Ltd which owned the well-known house building company. He is survived by his wife Josephine and two of their three daughters, Cynthia and Dianne.



Michael Weinstein at left, with Sepp Blatter, Harry Cavan and George Wallace preparing for the FIFA World Youth Cup in Australia in 1981.

Vale Murray Barnes

for his distinguished service to the

game over 25 years. On behalf of

the football community our condo-

lences go to the Weinstein family

Born in Wloclawek, Poland on

28 January 1922, he migrated to

Australia in 1950. He played with

pointing out some deficiencies he

quickly became team manager at

Hakoah in Melbourne, but after

and friends."

The Australian football community is mourning the loss of Murray Barnes, a former captain of the Socceroos and winner of four national championships with Sydney City Hakoah. Barnes, 57, passed away on New Year's Eve.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced that fans at Hyundai A-League matches this Wednesday 4 January will be invited to commemorate the career of Murray Barnes by joining a formal moment of applause prior to the match. Players will wear black armbands in memory of Murray Barnes.

"Murray Barnes blazed a trail as a junior product of Sydney's northern suburbs who went on to captain his country with distinction in a FIFA World Cup campaign," said FFA CEO Ben Buckley

"He will be remembered as a fierce competitor and as a proud Australian. On behalf of the football community, our condolences go to the Barnes family and friends."

Murray Barnes was the 24th captain of the Socceroos. He played 51 times for Australia, scoring nine goals. He was appointed captain for the Socceroos campaign for the 1982 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and led the team each of Sy winning set time he so was Sydne goalscorer 1980 (10).

on nine occasions in 1980 and '81. Barnes made 225 appearances, scoring 60 goals in the NSL for his only club, Sydney City Hakoah. He played in the inaugural season of 1977 and remained a regular until 1987. He won four championships - 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

Born on 16 January 1954 in Sydney, Murray Barnes played his junior football in the Ku-ring-gai district in the northern suburbs.

He joined Sydney City Hakoah and made his first senior appearance with the then NSW State League club aged 17.

He then spent a year in England at Leeds United, where he played with the Leeds youth team, and upon returning to Australia was thrust immediately into the Sydney City senior side.

A tall, strong and aggressive player, he was predominately a midfielder but often played in attack and occasionally in defence.

Barnes was a virtual ever-present in each of Sydney City's championship-winning seasons. Throughout this time he scored plenty of goals, and was Sydney City's second highest goalscorer in 1977 (12 goals) and 1980 (10).

At the international level he was first selected to play for an Australian side in an under 23 team tour of Indonesia in 1974. He made his senior international debut against China in 1975, when coach Tony Boggi was bringing in a new breed of Socceroos after many international retirements following the 1974 World Cup.

Later in 1975 he played five games against the touring Soviet Union team, where he managed to score in the 3-2 loss in Sydney. Throughout the ill-fated 1978 World Cup qualifiers he became more a fringe national team player after Jim Shoulder had replaced Brian Green in mid-1976. Barnes regained his regular starting position under Rudi Gutendorf, who specified to score against the starting position under Rudi Gutendorf,

ing position under Rudi Gutendorf, who took charge of the Socceroos from 1979, and participated in the national team's gruelling 1980 world tour where he took part in matches against the Greece, England B, Israel and Indonesia.

Gutendorf promoted Barnes to national captain for the ultimately unsuccessful campaign for the 1982 FIFA World Cup. He finished his top flight career with Sydney City in 1987 when the club became defunct after one round of that year's national league.



Murray Barnes in Sydney City colours in April 1986. Photo: Howard Abrahams

VALE - CHARLES SPITERI Mr Charles Spiteri, the former

Mr Charles Spiteri, the former Soccer writer with "Soccer World" back in the late 60's died on Christmas Eve in Westmead Hospital Sydney.

Charles Spiteri was the father-in-law of Ronnie Lord's eldest son, Brian, who is married to his daughter Joyce. Ronnie Lord is a former Australian International and 1956 Olympic Games legendary goalkeeper.

Charles slipped away on December 24th 2011 and will be remembered as a writer for the affectionately known Green newspaper of the late 1960/70's, 'Soccer World'.

The Late Mr Spiteri would go to matches all around Sydney and report as well as phone through copy to AAP Extremely well-respected, Charles was one of the very few people allowed to go into the dressing rooms at half time and came to know many coaches and players from this era

Mr Spiteri's unyielding passion for football remained with him all his life and was a keen follower of the English League, taping games to watch later as well as keeping track of scores and positions in the league. Charles Spiteri was 81 years old and is survived by his wife Margaret, and

The Australian football fraternity wishes to extend its sincerest condolences to wife Margaret and Charles' six children.

six children.

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Irvine says yes to Australia

By Craig MacKenzie

FFA has finally got its man with news that Jackson Irvine has declared his allegiance to Australia.

The Celtic under-19 captain and Scotland youth international recently spoke with FFA technical director Han Berger and their clear-the-air conversation ended with Irvine making himself available to represent the land of his birth.

"I've said right from the start that I wanted to play for Australia but it was a matter of timing really," said Irvine, who has just completed a 10-day trip to spend Christmas and New Year with his family in Melbourne.

"It was awkward at first when I couldn't accept the invitations. If they keep inviting you and you keep refusing you eventually fall out of the loop and the aim all along has been to play for Australia and maybe one day play for the Socceroos."

Ironically Irvine's situation became awkward due to his success. During the 2011 pre-season he was made captain of Celtic's under-19s and given a contract extension.

His first contract with Celtic was for two years but last year the Scottish giant offered him a two-year extension and a further one-year option which he accepted.

"That took a lot of pressure off me because this would have been my last season under my original contract," he said.

But FFA kept the pressure on the 18-year-old while he led the teenage Bhoys onto some of the most famous grounds in Europe as Celtic was the only Scottish club involved in the Next-Gen series which pitted 16 of Europe's finest against each other in a Champions League format.

To add to his footballing workload Scotland selected him in its 18-man squad to face Slovenia, Wales and Belgium in its UEFA Group 8 Under-19 qualifying series in Slovenia last September. Irvine played in all three games but the Scots failed to qualify for the finals.

Irvine was eligible to play for the Scots through his father Steve, who is best known during his playing career in Melbourne for stints with Doveton and Croydon.

His footballing genes are strong as his mother Danielle is the sister of former Ringwood Wilhelmina, Croydon and Knox City player Guy Bakker.

When Scotland selected Irvine the emerging star was over-the-moon.

"Yes, obviously I'm delighted to have been included in the Scotland squad. I've never had any recognition at national level before so it's pretty exciting to have the chance to represent Scotland," he told GW at the time.

"I was invited to the Australian under-18 matches held in Japan earlier in August but I chose not to go because our first league game and our first (Next-Gen) European game against Marseille were being played in that same week.

"To have had no international recognition in my career and then to have two countries asking me to play was pretty overwhelming."

Now FFA has to apply to FIFA for

ANOTHER GW EXCLUSIVE

permission to get Irvine registered to play with Australia but that should be a formality.

Irvine could be the last piece of the jigsaw for the Young Socceroos as this talented group is out to qualify for the 2013 World Under-20 finals in Turkey and hopes to clinch the Asian Under-19 championship along the way.

The Asian campaign kicked off in style in November when the youngsters finished on top of group G in Malaysia, winning all four games, scoring 20 goals and conceding just one.

That tournament signalled the entry to the Aussie fold of Aston Villa's Reece Caira and Blackburn Rovers' striker Jamie Maclaren.

Caira had been denied an international clearance by FFA for two years but when he finally was cleared he still opted to play for Australia while Maclaren had been overlooked by FFA for some time and had played two friendlies for Scotland's under-19s against Denmark last May.

Maclaren performed well in Malaysia, scoring four goals in three games and earning high praise from outgoing Young Socceroos coach Jan Versleiien.

Prior to that tournament I interviewed Verseleijen and congratulated him on getting Caira and Maclaren into the squad. I asked him if FFA was continuing to pursue Irvine and his response was blun

"Why should we? He already makes his mind up to play for another country so that's enough, yeah," he told me. Thankfully Berger continued to pursue the youngster and now Australia is the beneficiary of his persistence.

Irvine won't be among strangers during his first training session with the Young Socceroos as he already knows Jake Barker-Daish, Curtis Good and Maclaren and his ability to play in either midfield or defence should prove of great benefit to the soon-to-be-named new coach of the youngsters.

Irvine is happy to have put an end to the battle for his services between Australia and Scotland and he's relishing the prospect of playing for the Young Socceroos.

"Absolutely. It's very important to have that decided and I'm delighted that it's been resolved."

On the club front, Irvine has been set impressive goals at Celtic and trains regularly with the first team.

"I don't train with the youth team any more. I'm in the development squad. There's a large pool of players there and if things don't go to plan then there's the prospect of going out on loan but that's not something to think about right now.

"I aim to be in and around the first team next season and that's not something that we see as unrealistic."



Celtic Under-19s captain and soon-to-be former Scottish youth international Jackson Irvine.

Matt Simon K-League Bound



Matt Simon leaves the A-League for Korea.

The Central Coast Mariners have agreed to transfer striker Matt Simon to South Korean K-League outfit Chunnam Dragons on a three-year deal.

Simon, a Mariners club legend with over 100 Hyundai League appearances to his name, will fly to South Korea next week to link with his new teammates ahead of the forthcoming K-League season.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the determined striker will play for his beloved Mariners in their next two outings, both of which are at Bluetongue Stadium in front of the Yellow and Navy faithful.

Although saddened to be leaving his hometown club, Simon, an East Gosford Rams junior, said the opportunity to play abroad combined with the Dragons' offer was simply too good to refuse.

"It has always been a goal of mine to play overseas and this is an opportunity for me to take the next step in my career," Simon said.

"I've had a lot of great memories at the Mariners. I've loved playing for the Club and I've loved playing for the fans."

"Since the start of the A-League the fans have been great to me and I can't thank them enough. Hopefully I'll get to play for them again when my time overseas comes to an end."

A former plasterer, Simon joined the Mariners in 2006 from the Central Coast Lightning. Given the opportunity to fulfil his dream of playing football for a living by then Central Coast mentor Lawrie McKinna, it's fair to say the hardworking striker hasn't looked back.

Indeed, Simon's progression from

amateur to fully-fledged professional footballer with the Mariners has been rewarded with many accolades throughout his stay. Simon was selected for the 2008 Beijing Olympics squad, a team that was at the time led by current Mariners Head Coach Graham Arnold. Simon's form with Central Coast was also acknowledged with two Qantas Socceroos appearances in early 2009.

"I'm forever grateful to Lawrie McKinna and the Mariners for giving me the chance to make it as a professional footballer." he said. "Thankfully the Club was able to get 'Arnie' (Graham Arnold) in to replace Lawrie when he moved into a different

individually and he's improved me not only as a player but mentally as well." "Definitely my highlight was winning the Premiership with the boys in

season three, but also last season. We didn't go all the way but we did tremendously and it was fantastic to be a part of."

Simon's transfer to Chunnam

role. He knows how each player ticks

Dragons - a team based in the city of Gwangyang - highlights the Mariners' intent to provide a pathway for young, ambitious Australian footballers to achieve their goals, while contributing to the on-going success of the club. And while astute tactician Arnold

admitted Simon's presence would be missed both on and off the pitch, he believes the Club has the depth to carry on upfront in Simon's absence. "I think it's a great reward for a great bloke, a great Clubman and a fantastic footballer for the Mariners," Arnold

"Matty was coming off contract and he's received a great offer from Korea. It's a wonderful opportunity for him". "It's the A-League, these things hap-

pen where players leave mid-term. But it won't be too much of a distraction because we've got a lot of depth and it opens up a great opportunity for other players to step up to the mark," he said.

Central Coast Mariners Chairman, Mr Peter Turnbull, wished Simon well in his Korean adventure, and added that the Club would love to welcome him back to Bluetongue someday.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Matt and something that he really wants to pursue," Turnbull said. "As a Club, we recognise the outstanding contribution Matt has made both on and off the field over the past five years."

"As such, we fully support his move to South Korea and will be working hard over the coming days to ensure Matt receives the send off he deserves."

"Everyone involved with the Mariners hopes that Wednesday's game against Victory isn't the final time Matt Simon pulls on a Central Coast Mariners kit." he said.

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	14	9	3	2	24	10	14	30
2 Brisbane Roar	15	7	3	5	30	18	12	24
3 Melbourne Heart	14	7	3	4	24	18	6	24
4 Wellington Phoenix	15	6	3	6	22	19	3	21
5 Sydney FC	14	5	4	5	18	22	-4	19
6 Newcastle Jets	14	5	2	7	18	25	-7	17
7 Adelaide United	14	4	5	5	15	24	-9	17
8 Melbourne Victory	14	3	6	5	17	21	-4	15
9 Perth Glory	14	4	3	7	15	22	-7	15
10 Gold Coast United	14	3	4	7	17	21	-4	13

Week 14 Sat 7 Jan 2012 Sat 7 Jan 2012 Sun 8 Jan 2012 Sun 8 Jan 2012 Sun 8 Jan 2012

Fri 13 Jan 2012

Sat 14 Jan 2012

Sat 14 Jan 2012

Sun 15 Jan 2012

Alex

Wilkinison

Mariners

Pedi

Bojic

Mariners

Ivan

Franjic

Roar

Matt Ryan

Mariners

Dario

Vidosic

Adelaide

Mile Sterjovski

Glory

∠ Patrick

Zwaanswijk

Mariners

Antony

Golec

Adelaide

Mitch

Nichols

Roar

Matt Simon

Phoenix

Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart

Fixture
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United
Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets
Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory
Gold Coast United v Wellington Phoenix

VenueLocalAEDTHindmarsh Stadium5:00pm5:30pmAAMI Park7:45pm7:45pmWestpac Stadium4:00pm2:00pmSydney Football Stadium4:00pm4:00pmSkilled Park5:30pm6:30pm

 Venue
 Local
 AEDT

 AAMI Park
 8:00pm
 8:00pm

 Bluetongue Stadium
 5:30pm
 5:30pm

 Suncorp Stadium
 6:45pm
 7:45pm

 AAMI Park
 4:00pm
 4:00pm

 Skilled Park
 5:30pm
 6:30pm

ROUND 13 RESULTS

Melbourne Heart 1 (Babalj 90+1') Adelaide United FC 3 (van Dijk 38' (pen)/79', Vidosic 48')

NEWCASTLE JETS 3
(Brockie 43' / 64', Haliti 79')
GOLD COAST UNITED 2
(Halloran 72', Traore 78')

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Simon 1', 85') Melbourne Victory 0

Perth Glory 3 (Dodd 17', Sterjovski 24', 79') Brisbane Roar 3 (Nichols 41, Paartalu 45'+1, Nichols 69')

Wellington Phoenix 4 (Daniel 26p, Daniel Sanchez 42, Ben Sigmund 79, Paul Ifill 90+4) Sydney FC 2

(Brett Emerton 16p, Bruno

Cazarine 63)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

9 - Besart Berisha (Roar)
7- Matt Simon (Mariners)
6- Ryan Griffiths (Jets),
Carlos Hernandez (Victory),
Archie Thompson (Victory),
Jeremy Brockie (Jets)
5 - Shane Smeltz (Glory),

Jeremy Brockie (Jets)
5 - Shane Smeltz (Glory),
Mate Dugandzic (Heart),
4 - James Brown (GCUFC,
Nick Carle (SFC),
Henrique (Roar)

Compiled by Steven Talevski



Newcastle Jets' Jeremey Brockie scored a brace to move up the charts.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 13

GK: Matt Ryan – The nineteen old was the only goalkeeper to keep two clean sheets over the week and looked in control against both the Gold Coast and Melbourne Victory.

RB: Pedj Bojic – Bojic had two solid defensive games and was a threat going up the field against the Melbourne Victory where he found himself unlucky not to be on the score sheet.

CB: Alex Wilkinson – The Central Coast captain played with two different fellow central defenders across both games this week but was able to help get the same result of a clean sheet for the top of the table Mariners.

CB: Patrick Zwaanswijk – Although he was suspended for the clash against the Melbourne Victory, the central defender caused headaches for the Gold Coast side with dangerous passes into the Mariners attack.

LB: Antony Golec – The youngster was given a rare start from new coach John Kosmina and he repaid his faith with a promising performance in defence which was capped off with his first ever A-League goal against Wellington. The defender then had another solid performance in defence as Adelaide defeated Melbourne Heart 3-1.

RM: Ivan Franjic – Ange Postecoglou pushed the defender further up the field in a 3-4-3 formation and it worked out as Franjic had one of his best games ever in the A-League against Melbourne Victory which included a great goal.

CM: Dario Vidosic – The returning fringe Socceroo had two of his best performances in red with two goals and an assist to help Adelaide United to wins against Wellington Phoenix and Melbourne Heart.

CM: Mitch Nichols – The Socceroo had two solid games where he controlled the midfield against Melbourne Victory and scored a cracking header before netting two goals against Perth Glory with his first being a contender for goal of the season.

LM: Mile Sterjovski – Produced a man of the match performance against Brisbane Roar where he scored one of the goals of the season before comfortably slotting away a penalty to earn Perth Glory a point against the reigning champions.

ST: Sergio van Dijk – Adelaide United's number nine returned from injury against Wellington Phoenix before he scored a double against Melbourne Heart. The striker was also booked for coming off the field without permission against Wellington when he rushed off the field due to 'stomach cramps', despite this he make Goal! Weekly's team of the week for the first time since round two.

ST: Matt Simon – A fairy-tale ending for a true club man. His 18th second strike along with his 85th minute goal to double the score line showed a glimpse of why he has become one of the Mariners and the A-League best players

Star Man Matt Simon



What a fairy tale ending to his current stint at his local club. A double, the first comfortably slotted in the first half minute, the second in the dying minutes of the game ensured Central Coast a two nil win and Matt Simon a send-off that he deserves Simon was at his best against Melbourne Victory where he dominated in attack and worked hard in defence causing a defensive block at set pieces. Matt Simon will be missed by the Mariners on their title quest, but it is a credit to the club to let him go and take an opportunity to good to refuse at South Korea's Chunnam Dragons.

Thank God It's GW on a Friday... Now available at all good newsagents every Friday

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Friday 6th January 2012

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Melbourne Heart

HEART



Match Details

Melbourne Heart 1 (Babalj 90+1') Adelaide United FC 3 (van Dijk 38' (pen)/79', Vidosic 48') Referee: Kris Griffiths Jones Crowd: 8,272 @ AAMI Park

Melbourne Heart line-up: 1.Clint Bolton (gk), 2.Michael Marrone, 3.Brendan Hamill, 4. Simon Colosimo (18. Curtis Good 41'), 6.Matt Thompson (c), 7.Rutger Worm (15.David Williams 55'), 16.Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman (11. Alex Terra 63'), 19. Eli Babalj, 23. Mate Dugandzic, 25. Adrian Madaschi

Substitutes not used: 30.Sebastian Mattei (gk) Yellow Cards: Nil Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United line-up: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 3.Nigel Boogaard, 5. Daniel Mullen, 7. Zenon Caravella (2.Osama Malik 71'), 9.Sergio van Dijk 10. Dario Vidosic (15. Jacob Melling 78'). 11.Bruce Djite (17.lain Ramsay 69'), 12. Antony Golec, 14. Cameron Watson, 18. Fabian Barbiero, 21. Francisco Usucai

Substitutes not used: 20.Mark Birighitti Yellow Cards: Golec 60', Barbiero 80',

Mullen 84' Red Cards: Nil

Reds Rage Against The Machine

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Heart's winning streak came to an abrupt halt when Adelaide United scored a three-one win at AAMI Park in front of 8,272 fans on Wednesday afternoon.

That was the biggest home crowd for Heart since its first game in the A_league apart from the derbies against Victory.

Had the match been played later in the day it would probably have been even better.

Heart fielded an almost unchanged side, with only the injured skipper, Fred, missing, but that proved to be a vital absence.

John Kosmina's Adelaide welcomed back lain Ramsay and gave a start to sixeteen year old Jacob Melling, both of whom started on the bench.

After an initial Heart flurry, with some multiple passing moves, Adelaide assumed control of the game and took the lead in the 38th minute.

Simon Colosimo was exposed oneon-one with Bruce Djite and brought him down in the penalty area without making contact with the ball. Sergio van Dijk planted the penalty

Earlier Mate Dugandzic had been brought down near the bye-line by

Francisco Usucar but no penalty was awarded.

That incident was a clear case for the official on the goal line which is used in the English Premier League and other competitions, since that person would have had a clear headon view of the incident, whereas the central referee's view was probably masked by Usucar and other play-



Adelaide United players celebrate with their travelling fans. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Colosimo iniured his knee in the tackle on Djite and limped off in 41 minutes, with young Curtis Good taking his place.

Heart saw out the first half with no further alarms and Aziz Behich nearly equalized in injury time after skipping past two defenders, but as he said afterwards, 'The ball got stuck between my feet,' and his shot did not trouble Eugene Galekovic.

If Heart planned to make tactical switches at the interval, these were thrown into the waste basket when Zenon Caravella found Dario Vidosic who got the better of Brendan Hamill and squeezed the ball past Clint Bolton on three minutes after the restart.

David Williams came on for Rutger Worm and Alex Terra replaced Jason Hoffmann, but Adelaide countered with switches of its own replacing Djite, who was carrying an injury and playing in pain, according to John Kosmina, Caravella and Vidosic with Ramsay, Osama Malik and Melling. Heart did have some good chances,

with free kicks in dangerous areas. but Mate Dugandzic's radar was not working, and Alex Terra's looping header was just touched over by Galekovic at full stretch. In 79 minutes van Dijk held off a

ton to put the visitors three up in the 79th minute. Heart kept plugging away and had its best spell since the opening pe-

challenge, turned and shot past Bol-

riod in the last ten minutes. In the first minute of stoppage time. Eli Babalj still had a lot of work to do when Dugandzic and Behich combined to find him inside the penalty

The youngster dragged the ball back and created space for a shot into the near corner of the goal.

Two minutes later he might have had a second from a pass by Mat Thompson, but this time his shot was collected by Galekovic.

John van't Schip said that Adelaide had taken control of the game after the opening period and, while Hear had created good openings earlier when it did not convert it allowed Adelaide back into contention.

We did not play well again until the last twenty minutes,' he said.

The absence of skipper Fred was particularly significant when Hear went behind, since he is the originator of many of Heart's attacking moves and also lifts the team by his

John Kosmina said he was delighted to be back working at the A-League level with players who were committed and willing to learn and work

Both he and Nigel Boogaard said it was critical that United stuck to its game plan, and like all coaches Kosmina stressed that getting the process right was essential if results were to follow.

He praised young Melling for his character, willingness to learn, hunger for the game and physical com-

This is definitely one to watch.

Youth is getting experience at Adelaide, as has been the case a Melbourne Heart, so the future is beginning to look at lot brighter for Australian teams



Serge van Dijk plants one past Clint Bolton to secure three valuable away points. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Dario Vidosic (10) doubles Adelaide's lead.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS



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Match Details

NEWCASTLE JETS 3 (Brockie 43' / 64', Haliti 79') GOLD COAST UNITED 2 (Halloran 72)

Traore 78')

HT: 1-0 Referee: Gerard Parsons Venue: Ausgrid Stadium, Newcastle

Newcastle Jets: 1.Ben Kennedy [gk]. 2. Taylor Regan, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 6.Ben Kantarovski, 8.Jeremy Brockie, 9. Michael Bridges (7. Kasey Wehrman 80'), 10. Ruben Zadkovich (14. Labinot Haliti 71'), 11 Tarek Elrich, 13.Sung-Hwan Byun, 23.Ryan Griffiths, 25.Jacob Pepper (17.James Virgili 90+2'). Unused subs: 19 Matthew Nash [qk] Yellow cards: Pepper 22', Zadkovich 62', Elrich 68'.

Red cards: None

Gold Coast United: 20. Jerrad Tyson [gk], 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 5.Kristian Rees, 6.Paul Beekmans, 13.Ante Rozic (7. Golgol Mebrahtu 73'), 14. Ben Halloran, 15.Adama Traore, 16.Maceo Rigters 23. Dylan McGowan 79'), 17. Chris Harold (21. Daniel Severino 60'), 22.Peter Jungschlager, 24.Jonas Salley.

Unused subs: 40.Chris O'Connor [gk] Yellow cards: None Red cards: None.

Haliti Winner stuns Resilient Gold Coast

Newcastle substitute Labinot Haliti has struck late on to give the Newcastle Jets a 3-2 victory over Gold Coast United in front of 9,311 fans at Ausgrid Stadium.

His strike settled an exciting encounter that was highlighted by a Jeremy Brockie brace and goals to Ben Halloran and Adama Traore respectively for the visitors.

Haliti was on the end of some brilliant lead up work from the influential Ryan Griffiths in the 79th minute. The Newcastle winger was released wide on the left and swung in a stunning left footed cross for the Newcastle marksman. Haliti did the rest from the edge of the six yard box with a side footed volley that flashed past Gold Coast keeper Jerrad Tyson and into the back of the net.

Earlier in the match, the visitors were unlucky not to be in front inside the first minute. Jets defender Taylor Regan played a poor pass out of defence that was intercepted by United midfielder Jonas Salley. He slid a ball in behind the Jets defence for winger Chris Harold whose cross was met by Halloran. His header beat Kennedy easily but unfortunately for the winger it crashed into the upright and not the back of the net.

The game started to take on an end-to-end feel and this was highlighted in the 31st minute. Newcastle got in behind the Gold Coast backline only for last ditch defending from Kristian Rees denying Brockie the opening goal. Gold Coast countered immediately as Paul Beekmans was played in behind the Jets defence. He turned inside Taylor Regan before hitting his shot from 10 yards straight into the waiting arms of Kennedy.

It was a matter of if and not when a goal would be scored and the home side obliged in the 43rd minute. Michael Bridges combined with Nikolai Topor-Stanley who was away down the left edge. The defender, often criticised for his poor distribution, delivered a telling cross onto the head of Brockie. The kiwi, starting the game as a central striker lived up to the billing, flashing a fine header into the top corner of Tyson's net from 12 yards.

After half time the Jets came out with greater confidence and started to apply constant pressure on the United Goal and



Jeremy Brockie scores the opener with a well taken near post header. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

almost scored in the 51st minute. Griffiths and Brockie again linked up with a neat interchange of passes and the Kiwi was again through on goal. Tyson this time came out on top to smother the strike form 12 yards. Halloran almost made Brockie pay for the miss three minutes later. He made the most of some lazy defending by Topor-Stanley before thrashing a drive at Kennedy from 15 yards. The keeper managed to beat the ball away to safety.

The combination of Griffiths and Brockie finally broke the Gold Coast down again on 64 minutes. This time it was a chipped pass from Griffiths which Brockie controlled on the edge of the area. He somehow then evaded the attention of both Rees and fellow defender Michael Thwaite before lashing a low drive past Tyson from 12 yards.

Celebrations were still happening among the home supporters when Gold Coast pulled one back through Halloran in the 72nd minute. Peter Jungschlager swept in a cross from the right which was cleverly left by Daniel Severino. The ball rolled perfectly for Halloran who neatly beat Kennedy from 15 yards, passing the ball past the keeper with his right foot.

The away team kept up the pressure and the equaliser came in the 78th minute. Maceo Rigters chased down a misdirected cross that had come in from the right. The

Jets defenders thought he was going to whip the ball back into the danger area, but he had other ideas. He slipped a neat pass through to Traore, who smashed a left footed drive past Kennedy from the narrowest of angles and off the far upright and into the net.

Almost from the kick off Haliti hit back with the winner for the home side and he could have hit home a fourth goal in the 84th minute. Again it was Griffiths and Brockie causing headaches for the defence as another Griffiths cross came to Brockie. He could only manage to flick the ball into the path of Haliti at the back post. He turned inside his defender before bending a left footed effort over the bar from 12 yards.

Jets coach Gary Van Egmond was pleased with how his side responded after Gold Coast had came from two goals down.

"When a team is leading 2-0 and there's two goals scored from their opponents, the impetus and momentum is with them," he said.

"So for us to hit back so quickly is very pleasing. I think tonight will go a long way in giving us that confidence we've lacked."

The Jets will now take this new found confidence into a clash with the Melbourne Victory on Saturday evening in Melbourne. The Gold Coast on the other hand will be back in front of their loyal fans at Skilled Park on Sunday against a wounded Melbourne Heart



Gold Coast's Adama Traore overturns a 2-nil lead and puts the visitors back on level terms, Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Goal-scoring hero of the hour Labinot Haliti and Kristian Rees vie for control of the ball. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Newcastle Jets Official Merchandise available from: Hunter Sports Superstore Ausgrid Stadium, 294 Turton Road, New Lambton NSW 2305

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elbourne Victory





Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Simon 1', 85') Melbourne Victory 0

Referee: Peter Green Crowd: 12,284 At Bluetongue Stadium,

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel Mcbreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4, Pedi Boiic, 7, John Hutchinson, 11. Oliver Bozanic, 12. Troy Hearfield (9. Bernie Ibini 62'), 14. Michael Mcglinchey (5. Brad Porter 90 +1'),16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 19. Matt Simon (22. Mustafa Amini 88')

Subs Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Sainsbury 53 Red Cards: None

Melbourne Victory: 21. Ante Covic (Gk), 2. Matthew FosChini, 4. Petar Franjic, 6. Leigh Broxham, 8. Grant Brebner, 10. Archie Thompson (C), 12. Rodrigo Vargas, 13. Diogo Ferreira, 16. Carlos Hernandez, 19, Isaka Cernak (11. Marco Rojas 67'), 22. Harry Kewell (18. Daniel Allsopp 76')

Subs Not Used: 20. Lawrence Thomas (Gk), 3. Fabio

Yellow Cards: None Red Cards: None

Simon's Fairytale Victory Farewell

By Adrian Deans

Amini and Ibini started on the bench for the Mariners, but it was always going to be about Matt Simon.

Six days ago, the Mariners dropped a bombshell when they announced that the crowd favourite was being sold - with almost immediate effect to Chunnam Dragons in Korea. It was a deal, by all accounts, which would set Simon up for life and pour a small amount of desperately needed funds into the cash-strapped coffers of the

So, a party night, and the guest of honour could hardly have hoped for a better result. Eighteen seconds into the match, Troy Hearfield barged his way past Petar Franjic to tee up Simon for the opening goal. Cue mad scenes with even Mat Ryan joining the celebratory ruck in front of another large home crowd

For the next little while, the Victory played like rabbits in the spotlight, but on ten minutes they found some space in the Mariners' third. Archie Thompson's inside left channel ball for Hernandez should have led to an equaliser, but Mat Rvan was well positioned to turn the ball away for a corner.

Then on 17 minutes, Victory played a superb move commencing with a tackle and pass by Vargas to Kewell who put Thompson away down the right. His first time cross should have been turned in by Carlos Hernandez he beat Ryan but didn't put enough on his shot, enabling Pedj Bojic to clear off the line.

In fact, the opening 35 minutes was absolutely breathless - end to end with numerous chances made by both teams, so it was little wonder that the last ten minutes of the first half was a comparative lull as the teams marshalled their strength.

After half time, the Victory were noticeably less involved and began to lose their shape. Hernandez in particular

Match Stats Saves Attempts on target 11 Attempts off target 46% Possession Corners 2 Offsides Fouls committed



The Mariners faithful show their appreciation to the departing Matt Simon. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

was a lot less mobile and less able to link the midfield with the strikers. From the Mariners' perspective, the question for the fans was when would they see the Amini/Ibini show?

Increasingly, the Mariners raised the pressure, creating chance after chance. The Mariners probably should have had a penalty on 50 minutes when Vargas threw his arm up and made contact with a Matt Simon cross in the box. Simon then brought the best out of Ante Covic on 55 minutes with a fine save to his right, and seconds later McBreen headed over from point blank.

On 60 minutes, the crowd got half of their desire when Ibini was introduced

for Hearfield. Ibini immediately began creating havoc in behind the Victory defence - forcing Covic into several excellent saves, diving away from his goal to collect hard, low crosses.

When Armini finally came on the Mariners dominance was all but complete but they still didn't have the second goal they needed. Ibini hit the post twice and McGlinchey fired over an empty goal, but Melbourne were still threatening occasionally (via Kewell and Thompson) to pinch the equaliser they didn't deserve. Indeed, Danny Allsopp really should have done better on 77 minutes but shot too close

Finally, on 84 minutes, Matt Simon

got his second goal when he cut inside Franjic and beat Covic at his near post from just inside the box. It was a shame for Covic, who was Victory's best player, but something very special for Matt Simon who has been a wonderful servant for the Central Coast.

As for the Victory, the fans were deeply unhappy with the performance and loudly calling for the sacking of Mehmet Durakovic. Their position on the table is something of a mystery. They have great facilities, great support, one of the best rosters in the league. Something is clearly wrong with their effectiveness as a team and it would not surprise to see some changes

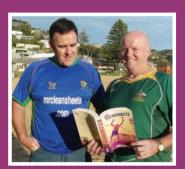
in the next little while. The rumour among some of the Victory fans was that a certain ex-Newcastle coach has been seen around the Victory offices in recent days.

The last word goes to Matt Simon. Good luck in Korea - the Mariners will be very happy to have you back one

Adrian Deans is the author of Mi Cleansheets - published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Also available as ebook at www.mrcleansheets.com

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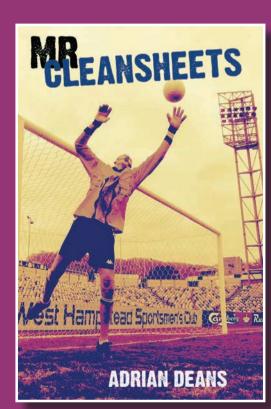
- Paul Gascoigne

"Better than a kick in the teeth!"

Eric Cantona

"I didn't see it."

Arsene Wenger



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Bernie Ibini goes close and hits the post shortly after coming on as substitute. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Perth Glorv



3

Brisbane Roar



3

Match Details

Perth Glory 3 (Dodd 17', Sterjovski 24', 79')

Brisbane Roar 3 (Nichols 41, Paartalu 45'+1, Nichols 69') Venue: nib Stadium Referee: Chris Beath Crowd: 6912

Perth Glory squad: 1. Danny Vukovic (Ck), 2. Josh Mitchell, 4. Billy Mehmet (22. Adam Taggart 83'), 5. Steve Pantelidis, 7. Jacob Burns (C), 10. Liam Miller, 13. Travis Dodd, 14. Steven Mcgarry (87'), 17. Todd Howarth (16.Evan Berger 80'), 19. Josh Risdon, 21. Mile Sterjovski

Substitutes not used: 30. Lewis Italiano (GK)

Yellow cards: 2. Josh Mitchell (74') Red cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar Squad: 1. Michael Theoklitos (GK), 2. Matt Smith, 3. Shane Stefanutto (19. Jack Hingert 57'), 4. Matt Jurman , 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paaratlu, 7. Besart Berisha, 14. Rocky Visconte (8. Massimo Murdocca 46'), 16. Mohamed Adnan, 17. Mitch Nichols, 18. Luke Brattan (11. Issey Nakajima-Farran 69'), 19. Jack Hingert, 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)

Substitutes not used: 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
Yellow cards: 1. Michael Theoklitos (78'),

17. Mitch Nichols (90'+4)
Red cards: Nil

SIX GOAL THRILLER ENDS IN DRAMATIC DRAW

By Jacob Kagi

Brisbane Roar again failed to reach their dominant best as a late Mile Sterjovski penalty saw them draw 3-3 with strugglers Perth Glory at nib Stadium on Wednesday.

The Roar had come back from 2-0 down, equalising through goals to Mitch Nichols and Erik Paartalu in a five minute spell before half-time and went ahead in the second half.

Nichols' second goal, in the 69th minute, appeared to have put the Roar on course for victory but Sterjovski earned Perth a valuable point as he converted from the spot in the 80th minute.

Earlier, Travis Dodd had given the Glory the lead 16 minutes in before a 25-metre curling effort from maligned Australian marquee player Sterjovski nine minutes later doubled that advantage in front of 6912 fans in the last game of the A-League's 'Big Wednesday'.

Remarkably, victory would have been enough for Perth to move back into the top six, but instead they slipped to ninth with the draw, while Brisbane slipped to six points behind league leaders Central Coast despite having played an extra game.

After the unflattering performance, Roar coach Ange Postecoglou was scathing of his side.

"That's unacceptable," he said.
"Perth Glory got robbed to be hon-

est ... They deserved to win the



The Glory get the show on the road in the thriller with a Travis Dodd opener. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

game today.

"We were very, very ordinary and it would have been an injustice if we got anything more than a point out of it

"I didn't think we had it in us (to play that poorly) to be honest. That was about 20 steps back from where we've been."

It was the sixth time from seven games Brisbane had failed to win since their record unbeaten run came to an end but it continued an even leaner run for Perth, who have now taken just six points from their last 11 outings - winning just once.

Yet under-fire Glory coach Ian Ferguson was pleased with the way his team performed against a side he described as "on another planet" when they last met.

"I thought the boys were outstanding. They took the game to Brisbane," he said.

"To go 3-2 down, I thought it showed a bit of character from the boys (to come back to equalise), not just up until they got the goal from the penalty."

Perth did receive a blow though as in-form striker Billy Mehmet, who took his place in the game after the club successfully appealed against the red card he received against Newcastle on New Year's Eve, limped off with an apparent foot injury in the final stages.

Mehmet again started up front on his own, with Shane Smeltz still unable to overcome a groin injury, while Todd Howarth remained at left-back because Dean Heffernan didn't receive his international clearance in time and Josh Mitchell returned from suspension to replace the injured Bas van den Brink in central defence.

Despite the home side's makeshift line-up, they were causing significant problems for Brisbane's back three and could have taken the lead just after kick-off when Liam Miller sent a good chance over the bar

But the Glory had the lead in the 16th minute when Mehmet held onto the ball against two defenders and fed to Dodd, who produced a nice finish.

And it got even better for the shocked home fans when the Roar failed to clear the ball properly, allowing Sterjovski to come up with possession and unleash a brilliant shot into the corner from 25 yards. The hosts even had their chances to make it three, with Mehmet denied by Michael Theoklitos from close range and Howarth shooting just over from a good position.

After dominating all the opening exchanges, Perth were on the back foot as Brisbane came to life later in the half, scoring as Nich-

ols was given far too much space and drove the ball past a helpless Danny Vukovic.

And Paartalu had them back level on the stroke of half-time as he nodded Luke Brattan's corner over the defender on the post.

The Glory again looked on top early in the second half but failed to take their chances - even hitting the woodwork on one occasion - and Brisbane made them pay when Nichols was played through and he chipped over Vukovic, who was caught in a poor position.

Just as it seemed certain the Roar had earned a remarkable win, Ivan Franjic clumsily fouled Sterjovski in the box in a completely unnecessary tackle and the former Socceroos winger sent Theoklitos the wrong way with the spot kick.

Brisbane's next test comes against a suddenly resurgent Adelaide United on Friday, while Perth face consecutive away games against Wellington, Melbourne Heart and Sydney within 10 days.



WE ARE FOUND ALE THE WIND

Mile Sterjovski gets ready to pull the trigger for the first goal of his brace. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

Mitch Nichols pulls one back for the Roar. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

Wellington Phoenix



4

Sydney FC



2

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 4 (Daniel 26p, Daniel Sanchez 42, Ben Sigmund 79, Paul Ifill 90+4)

Sydney FC 2 (Brett Emerton 16p, Brunc Cazarine 63) Westpac Stadium

Crowd: 8,411
Referee: Alan Milliner

Wellington Phoenix: 20. Tony Warner,

2. Manny Muscat, 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Tim Brown, 7. Leo Bertos, 9. Chris Greenacre, 11. Daniel, 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 21. Daniel Sanchez, 22. Andrew Durante (c).

Sub not used: 1. Mark Paston (gk), 8. Paul Ifill, 14. Mirjan Pavlovic, 24. Alex Smith.

Yellow cards: Vince Lia 16. Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy, 3. Jamie Coyne (23. Rhyan Grant '53), 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton, 9. Bruno Cazarine, 11. Dimi Petratos (18. Juho Makela '59), 12. Shannon Cole, 15. Terry McFlynn (c) (2. Sebastian Ryall '87), 17. Terry Antonis, 19. Mark Bridge.

Sub not used: 20. Ivan Necevski (gk). Yellow cards: Jamie Coyne 25, Terry Antonis 67 Red cards: Nil

Sigmund Stars as Phoenix Floor SFC

By Joe Gallagher

The A-League's Big Wednesday kicked off in style in New Zealand's capital with Wellington Phoenix hosting Sydney FC.

In an entertaining match the Phoenix won 4-2 to leapfrog their opponents into fourth place, but the scoreline could have gone either way.

Two goals from penalties and an excellent Dani Sanchez finish saw the Phoenix lead 2-1 at the break before Bruno Cazarine scored a soft goal to even the scores leading into the final ten minutes.

But a Ben Sigmund header and a typical Paul Ifill finish deep into stoppage time clinched the win in front of a loud attendance of over 8000 fans.

Phoenix boss Ricki Herbert gave bench spots to Ifill and Alex Smith who sat out Friday's loss to Adelaide United. The talismanic Ifill's return from injury especially instilled confidence in the Phoenix players.

On the other bench Viteslav Lavicka was without Karol Kisel (suspended) and returned Terry McFlynn to his starting lineup.

Dani Sanchez tested ex-Phoenix keeper Liam Reddy twice in the opening ten minutes – the first a free kick that drifted wide and the second striking the side netting before Sydney took the lead in the 16th minute.

After Mark Bridge had been thwarted by an excellent save from keeper Tony Warner, the ensuing corner was handled in the area by Vince Lia. The Phoenix midfielder was shown a yellow card and marquee midfielder Brett Emerton converted to give Sydney the lead.

You could be excused thinking the equaliser was a replay of the first — another ball in from the right saw an unnecessary handball and yellow card from Jamie Coyne and the Brazilian Daniel made no mistake from the spot.

Reddy was called into action twice – by Daniel and Sanchez – to pull off a brilliant double save to keep his side in the match and he might have been left disappointed that his side did not take advantage of his excellence in goal.

The Phoenix were thrice saved by the woodwork in the first half. Cazarine struck



The Phoenix are flying high after an impressive win against Sydney FC. Photo: DANIEL PANTER

the post when clean through on goal, and hit the crossbar when Manny Muscat's attempted clearance looped over Warner and onto the frame of the goal but it was the home side that went into the break ahead.

In the 42nd minute Daniel found Sanchez in space with a long cross and the Spaniard neatly clipped the ball over Reddy to score his fourth of the season.

One of the bigger cheers of the second half came at the inclusion of Ifill — the Phoenix's most dangerous attacker whose fitness is a hugely positive sign for Herbert and the Yellow Fever as they look towards a potential playoffs position in 2012.

But as the Phoenix pressed for a third that

would kill off the game, they were caught on the break. Emerton fed the ball through to Cazarine and the striker finished to even the scores – although Warner will be very disappointed to have let the ball trickle past him in such a weak fashion, reminiscent of Cazarine's other goal in Wellington in November.

But Ben Sigmund – as he did against Perth Glory just weeks earlier – looked to have scored the winner after 79 minutes, heading home a Leo Bertos corner and adding the exclamation point to another excellent match at the back for the Phoenix with another goal to rescue the Phoenix.

Ifill's goal in the final seconds was the icing on the cake for the Phoenix, who know

solidify their top six berth ahead of a visit from Perth Glory on Sunday. The Barbadan broke past the challenge of his marker with ease and blasted a superb finish past Reddy.

It was a deserved three points for Wel-

lington but Herbert will be well aware that on another day they may not have won, having gifted golden chances to Sydney throughout the afternoon.

But they've now scored nine goals in two

but they be now scored nine goals in two home games and will be full of confidence for Sunday's match with Perth, who will have to travel the length of Australia this weekend.

The most disappointing aspect for Herbert is that his side have again developed a

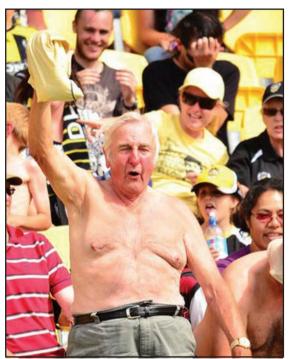
pattern of winning in Wellington and losing in Australia – their away form seriously denting their credentials as a contender for the A-League.

On the other hand, however, Lavicka's side have conceded four goals in two consecutive outings and are sitting precariously at the bottom of the top six – a worrying sigr for one of the league's biggest-spending clubs.

Even more concerning for the Sky Blues is the looming visit of league leaders Central Coast Mariners this weekend. Lavicka hinted post-match at ringing the changes as Sydney look to make a rapid return to the winners' circle.



Chris Greenacre keeps his eye on the ball as Michael Beauchamp closes in. Photo: DANIEL PANTER



Young or old, Yellow Fever fans would give the shirt off their back for their heroes. Photo: DANIEL PANTER



A-League | Round 14 Previews





Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c) 2.Osama Malik

3.Nigel Boogaard

5.Daniel Mullen

7.Zenon Caravella 9.Sergio van Dijk

10.Dario Vidosic

11.Bruce Djite

12.Antony Golec

14.Cameron Watson 17.lain Ramsay

18.Fabian Barbiero 20.Mark Birighitti (gk)

21.Francisco Usucar

In: lain Ramsay (returns from suspension), Jacob Melling (promoted)

Out: Spase Dilevski (groin - 1

Unavailable: Cassio (ankle), Evgeniy Levchenko (groin), 4.Jon McKain (knee soreness)

Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar

Sat 7 Jan Hindmarsh Stdm 5:30pm

By MIke Salter

On New Year's Eve Brisbane coach Ange Postecoglou did a jig on the touchline as his side broke a fivematch losing run with convincing 3-1 result over Melbourne Victory.

Fast forward four days and the jig looks like it's been put away for good.

To most Hyundai A-League coaches, coming from two goals down to secure a 3-3 draw with Perth at nib Stadium - one of the world's longest road trips - would be cause for celebration.

But for Postecoglou, it wasn't the result that mattered, it was the performance, and that was poor enough for him to label it everything from "unacceptable" to "cowardly" in a remarkable, no-holds barred press conference that was brutally honest.

But if his words weren't enough, his body language five minutes later was telling. As some of his players sat pensively on the team bus, Postecoglou was there sitting right by the entrance.

The coach almost appeared in pain as he curled in on himself, busily writing notes, but close enough at hand to still eyeball his players and possibly ask the hard questions as they entered the ve-

"Perth Glory got robbed," declared Postecoglou at the start of his conference, although this was just an appetiser for what was to come.

"They deserved to win the game. We were very, very ordinary and it would have been an injustice if we got anything more than a point out of it."

"Today, that was about 20 steps back from where we've been."

By Shaun Dyas

desperate need of a win.

hosts on the ladder.

The Melbourne Victory welcomes the Newcastle Jets to AAMI Park in

round 15 A-league action this Sat-

urday night, with the home team in

Following results from the midweek

'Big Wednesday' round, the Jets now

find themselves positioned above their

In fact the Victory have failed to win

any of their past three matches and

are coming off a 2-0 loss against the

Matt Simon inspired Central Coast

The Victory will need to find something like their best form fast, as the visitors

have a decent record against the Vic-

tory and will arrive with renewed con-

The Jets are coming off an impressive

3-2 win against the impregnable Gold

Coast United, who before the match at

Ausgrid Stadium had not conceded in

The Jets returned to form in the match,

especially the wide pairing of Jeremy

Brockie and Ryan Griffiths. Brockie

scored a brace in the match and Grif-

fiths picked up a pair of assists to fire

Melbourne will look to exploit New-

castle's dismal away form. The Jets

have only picked up a solitary point

this season away from home and have

not won away since they defeated the

now defunct North Queensland Fury on

There can be no doubt that the Victory

the Jets back into finals contention.

their last four matches.



"It's unacceptable, it's not good enough. I'm not interested in getting cheap points or cheap victories playing like that."

"That's not what we're about and for a good 18 months we've been about something different."

"Even when we were losing games, we were still playing our football ... but [here] there was just nothing."

Postecoglou said he didn't understand why the players didn't play to their systems and went as far as to question whether they had the courage to play that way anymore.

"We failed on every sort of measure we have as a football club," declared Postecoglou.

"It's the most disappointing (perfor-

mance), I think for 18 months. We haven't played that way for a very long

"We just didn't stick to any of our principles or beliefs," he added. "The human qualities of competitive

sport were missing. The desperation, the desire to win, a bit of bravery, a bit of courage.

"Courage comes in many forms but in our game, and particularly in the way we play, courage means wanting the ball in tricky situations and we were extremely cowardly in the way we approached the

'It's a funny league the A-League; we're sitting in second spot (but) it just doesn't feel right to me, playing like that.'

"I'm not interested in that sort of performance along the way. I want us to be better than that."

"I'd rather finish seventh and understanding we're developing a certain style of game than sit where we are."

"I don't want the players to get away with that, I don't want us to get away with that, I don't want myself to get away with it." "I don't want to say, 'oh yeah, we got

a point away from home, we're sitting in second spot, things are travelling well', when I know deep inside me I can't live with that sort of performance from our

Kiss of Death AUFC 2- 2 Roar



1. Michael Theoklitos (GK)

2. Matt Smith

3. Shane Stefanutto (Capt.)

4. Matt Jurman

5. Ivan Franjic

6. Erik Paaratlu 7. Besart Berisha

8. Massimo Murdocca

9. Kofi Danning

11. Issey Nakajima-Farran

14. Rocky Visconte 16. Mohamed Adnan

17. Mitch Nichols

18. Luke Brattan

19. Jack Hingert

20. Andrew Redmayne (GK) *one to be omitted*

In: 9. Kofi Danning (promoted)

Unavailable: 21. James Meyer (adductor injury - 1 week), 22. Thomas Broich (heel injury - 1 week), Henrique (knee injury - 1



Victory Line Up

- 2. Matthew Foschini 3. Fabio
- 4. Petar Franjic
- 6. Leigh Broxham 7. Matthew Kemp
- 8. Grant Brebner 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
- 10. Archie Thompson
- 11. Marco Rojas 12. Rodrigo Vargas
- 13. Diogo Ferreira
- 14. Billy Celeski
- 15. Tom Pondeljak 16.Carlos Hernandez
- 17, Jimmy Jeggo
- 18. Danny Allsopp
- 19. Isaka Cernak 20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
- 21. Ante Covic (GK) 22. Harry Kewell
- 23. Adrian Leijer (c)
- *six to be omitted*

In: 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano, 11. Marco Rojas, 17, Jimmy Jeggo, 15. Tom Pondeljak, 7. Matthew Kemp (promoted), 23. Adrian Leijer (returns from injury) Out: Nil

Unavailable: 1.Tando Velaphi (stress fracture)

Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets

Sat 7 Jan AAMI Park 7:45pm

Desperate Victory to face Rejuvenated Jets Victory 1.75 Draw 3.55 Jets 4.60

has the players capable of dismantling the Jets. Players like Carlos Hernandez, Archie Thompson and Harry Kewell have the ability to win games on their own with a touch of individual brilliance. Newcastle needs look no further than the earlier contest between the sides this season. Hernandez picked the ball up on the edge of the area and delivered a sumptuous curling strike into the roof of the net.

It will be up to players like Kasey Wehrman and Ben Kantarovski to marshal the Costa Rican in an effort to limit his impact on the game.

It will be vitally important for Grant Breb-

ner and co to closely monitor Michael Bridges. The ex-premier league star has been crucial in igniting the Jets attack with his clever and intricate link up

Another player who will be primed for a

big performance is Victory goalkeeper Ante Covic. The big gloveman is still highly regarded in Newcastle and was the man between the posts for Newcastle's premiership win in season three. He left midway through season four and would love nothing greater than to deliver a clean sheet against his former employer.

For the away side, skipper Jobe Wheel-

house and fellow English striker Francis Jeffers are still under injury clouds and are unlikely to play. This could prove crucial as Jeffers has a knack of scoring at AAMI Park and Wheelhouse has the added bite in midfield that is needed in

Newcastle struggle enough away from home and it is hard to see them getting the three points against the Victory in front of what is sure to be a bumper crowd. The game will be a close affair, but the Victory should have too many strike weapons.

Kiss of Death Victory 2-1 Jets



Jets Line Up

- 1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
- 2. Taylor Regan
- 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- 5. Tiago Calvano (c)
- 6. Ben Kantarovski 7.Kasey Wehrman
- 8. Jeremy Brockie
- 9. Michael Bridge 10. Ruben Zadkovich
- 11. Tarek Elrich
- 13. Sung-Hwan Byun
- 14. Labinot Haliti
- 19. Matthew Nash 22. Ali Abbas
- 23. Ryan Griffiths
- 25. Jacob Pepper

one to be omitted

Pepper (all promoted)

In: 22.Ali Abbas, 25.Jacob

Out: 24.Francis Jeffers (ankle)

Unavailable: 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (virus), Sam Gallaway

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Friday, January 13 Kick-off 8.00pm AAMI Park



























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Sun 8 Jan SFS 4:00pm





Sydney FC Line Up

- 1. Liam Reddy
- 2. Sebastian Ryall
- . Jamie Coyne
- 4. Pascal Bosschaart
- . Michael Beauchamp
- 7. Brett Emerton
- 9. Bruno Cazarine
- 11. Dimi Petratos
- 12. Shannon Cole 15. Terry McFlynn (c)
- 17. Terry Antonis
- 18. Juho Makela
- 19. Mark Bridge
- 20. Ivan Necevski 21. Scott Jamieson
- 23. Rhyan Grant
- 24. Mitchell Mallia *two to be omitted*

1 match)

In: Terry McFlynn (returns from suspension), 2. Sebastian Ryall (promoted), 24.

Mitchell Mallia (promoted) Out: 8. Karol Kisel (suspended

Injured: Nick Carle (hamstring - 2 weeks)

Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners

By Mike Salter

The two sides facing off at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday do so in contrasting form. The Central Coast Mariners, on an enviable unbeaten run, sit six points clear at the top of the competition table; Sydney FC, by contrast, are without a win in three and have conceded eight goals in their last two encounters. Still within the top six, they badly need a win in order to restore some flagging confidence.

Sydney's abiding problem this season has been their propensity to go behind at home, and they will not have forgotten their last game against the Mariners at home, in which they gave the league leaders a two-goal buffer which proved impossible to rein in, despite Sydney's characteristic late fightback.

Vitezslav Lavicka's men come into the game on the back of a lively 4-2 loss to the Phoenix in Wellington, in which there were a few good signs despite the scoreline. The goal-shy Bruno Cazarine at least got himself on the scoresheet despite another batch of missed chances, and Mark Bridge again showed signs of returning to his erstwhile form. On the other side of the ledger, key defender Pascal Bosschaart, who has been in commanding form for most of the season, has looked vulnerable at times



in Sydney's last few encounters, and Lavicka will need him to step up to the plate against the in-form Mariners. Michael Beauchamp, too, will need to show some of his 2005/06-era sharpness against his former club.

Mariners 2.25

Sydney will also be sweating, once again, on the fitness of Nick Carle. The men from the harbour club never quite look as threatening without the former Newcastle and Crystal Palace playmaker, whose neat skills and killing through-balls have lifted Sydney FC to many an important win. It is, however, unlikely that Carle will be available to start the game.

For the Mariners, 2-0 winners against the struggling Melbourne Victory in their last outing, the loss of striker Matt Simon will be the shadow hanging over the game. Simon's physical power and uncanny knack for scoring important goals will be much missed by the Central Coast club following his departure to Korea to join Chunnam Dragons. In his absence, young Bernie Ibini is likely to partner the experienced Daniel McBreen up front, but there will doubtless be times during the game when Simon's batteringram style would have come in handy. The men from the Coast have a fairly

good record at the SFS in the regular season (the finals are another matter - they have lost two A-League showpieces at Sydney FC's home ground), and in fact all the omens in this one seem to point to a win for the league leaders. Yet Sydney FC have had a habit of confounding the prophets this season...not least when they toppled Brisbane Roar a little over a month ago, to spark the defending champions' extraordinary slump. Could we see a repeat on Sunday?

> **Kiss of Death** SFC 2-3 Mariners



- 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
- 2. Daniel Mcbreen
- 3. Joshua Rose
- 4. Pedj Bojic
- 5. Brad Porter
- 7. John Hutchinson
- 8. Rostyn Griffiths
- 9. Bernie Ibini
- 11. Oliver Bozanic
- 12. Troy Hearfield 14. Michael Mcglinchev
- 16. Trent Sainsbury
- 18. Alex Wilkinson (C) 19. Matt Simon
- 20. Justin Pasfield
- 22. Mustafa Amini
- *One To Be Omitted* In: 5. Brad Porter (Promoted),

From Injury) Out: 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk

8. Rostyn Griffiths (Returns

(Suspended – 1 Match) 19. Matt Simon (transferred to Korea)

Unavailable: Nil

Phoenix Line Up

- 1. Mark Paston (GK)
 2. Manny Muscat
 3. Tony Lochhead
 6. Tim Brown
 7. Leo Bertos
 8. Paul Ifill
 9. Chris Greenacre

- 11. Daniel
- 14. Mirjan Pavlovic
- 17. Vince Lia 18. Ben Sigmund
- 20, Tony Warner (GK) 21. Dani Sanchez 22. Andrew Durante (C) 24. Alex Smith

In: Paul Ifill (returns from injury), Alex Smith (promoted)

Out: Nicky Ward (omitted), Jimmy Downey (omitted)

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite)

Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory

Sun 8 Jan Westpac Stadium 2:00pm

By Joe Gallagher

Perth Glory will make the arduous trip across the continent to face a high-flying Wellington Phoenix in

Glory will need to overcome the effects of a full day's travel, their winless record in Wellington and a Phoenix side who are beginning to re-establish their strong record at Westpac Stadium in order to pick up a three points that would see them move into the top six, having played a game more than their rivals.

On the other side of the coin, should Wellington continue their strong run of form at home, they would temporarily sit in equal second - an astonishing feat for a side whose pre-season was disjointed more than any other's and who have struggled with injuries since even before day one.

An even more surprising feat given that Ricki Herbert's side have failed to pick up three points across the Tasman at all this campaign.

And therein lies the challenge for the Phoenix. With just a handful of home games remaining in the season their final placing on the ladder will likely be determined by their ability (or lack thereof) to turn around their fortunes on

But before that challenge, Wellington face a short turn-around from Wednesday's 4-2 win against Sydney FC and will hope to maintain their 100% record in 2012



Thankfully for Herbert, he will not be forced into any changes, the glaring switch being the return of talismanic midfielder Paul Ifill to the starting lineup. Ifill's performances in an injuryplagued season thus far have been very impressive, capped off by his fine finish in stoppage time against the Sky Blues. To omit a fit Ifill from his Phoenix side would be one of Herbert's most astonishing moves as coach of the side.

Who Ifill replaces, however, is less opaque. Herbert has hinted at a rest for the tireless Chris Greenacre, but has also suggested that Ifill may play wide - which would perhaps see a rare start for young Australian striker Mirjan Pavlovic.

But Ian Ferguson on the other bench will have an extremely confident Mile Sterjovski in his ranks off the back of a brace against Brisbane Roar on 'Big Wednesday'. New recruit Dean Heffernan may play after failing to process his paperwork in time to feature in the impressive draw against the champions – a result that might well have gone the way of Perth, according to Brisbane coach Ange Postecoglou.

That match was not unlike the 1-0 defeat to Phoenix in Wellington in December, where it took a late Ben Sigmund header to pick up the three points for the hosts in a match the Glory marginally shaded.

Perth may be missing the services of ex-Phoenix marksman Shane Smeltz from injury, but will bring with them fanfavourite goalkeeper Danny Vukovic to Westpac Stadium, who spent the back end of Phoenix's run to the playoffs in Wellington last term But their poor record in Wellington will

play very strongly on the minds of the Glory players and they are unlikely to turn around that record on Sunday against a Wellington side with plenty to prove and beginning to make a genuine statement to this A-League campaign.

Kiss of Death Phoenix 3-1 Glory

Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (Gk) 2.Josh Mitchell 3.Bas Van Den Brink

4.Billy Mehmet 5.Steve Pantelidis 7.Jacob Burns (C)

8.Adam Hughes 10.Liam Miller

13.Travis Dodd 14.Steven Mcgarry

15.Tommy Amphlett 16.Evan Berger

17.Todd Howarth 18. Jesse Makarounas

19, Josh Risdon 21.Mile Sterjovski

22.Adam Taggart 25. Trent Mcclenahan 30. Lewis Italiano (Gk)

Three To Be Omitted

In: 2.Josh Mitchell (Returns From Suspension), 15. Tommy Amphlett (Promoted),18. Jesse Makarounas (Promoted), 25. Trent Mcclenahan (Promoted

Out: Nil Unavailable: 6.Chris Coyne (Achilles), 9.Shane Smeltz (Groin - 1 Week),11.Victor Sikora (Hip – Long Term Injury List), 12.Scott Neville (Knee), 20.Neil Young (Abdominal), 27. Andrezinho (Hamstring -2

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Gold Coast Line Up

20.Jerrad Tyson (gk) 3.Michael Thwaite (c) 5.Kristian Rees 6.Paul Beekmans 7.Golgol Mebrahtu

13.Ante Rozic 14.Ben Halloran

15.Adama Traore

16.Maceo Rigters

17.Chris Harold 18.James Brown

21.Daniel Severino

22.Peter Jungschlager 23.Dylan McGowan

24.Jonas Sallev

28.Daniel Bowles 29.Mitch Bevan

31.Daniel Bragg 40.Chris O'Connor (gk) *four to be omitted*

In: 5.Kristian Rees (return from hand injury), 6.Paul Beekmans (return from suspension), 21. Daniel Severino (promoted) 29.Mitch Bevan (promoted),

31.Daniel Bragg (promoted)

Out: 4.Zac Anderson (thigh injury) Unavailable: 1.Glen Moss (groin injury – 7 weeks), 9.Joel Porter (calf - 4 weeks), 12.Dylan Macallister (hamstring injury – 1 week), 19.Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury - 6 weeks)

Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart

Sun 8 Jan Skilled Park 6:30pm

By John Clark

The Melbourne Heart meets the Gold Coast this weekend with the unfamiliar feeling of a loss hanging over their head.

The Heart had gone into their 'Big Wednesday' clash with Adelaide on a five game winning streak and hot favourites to make it six. Only two hours later the bubble was well and truly burst with the cellar dwelling Reds coming away with a 3-1 victory. In fairness to the Heart they were always going to struggle to create much in midfield without their diminutive South American pairing of Fred and

However their defensive effort would be a concern to John Van't Schip, with each of Adelaide's goals assisted by a defensive error. The first a needless penalty conceded by Simon Colosimo, the second a deep run from midfield by Dario Vidosic where he wasn't picked up until it was too late and the third a trademark goal by Sergio Van Dijk where he turned Brendan Hamill with relative ease.

At the other end of the park Mate Dugandzic had a poor game after being in a rich vein of form over the past four weeks, while Eli Babalj continues to impress with the ball at his feet and scored a classy consolation goal after earlier spurning a golden chance to bring the Heart back into the game. Gold Coast met the Jets Gold Coast prepare for another Heart-starter

on 'Big Wednesday' and burst out of the blocks with Ben Halloran's header hitting the woodwork inside a minute. That was about the last clear cut chance they created for the half as they sat back and invited Newcastle to come at them. Eventually the weight of possession told and via Nikolai Topor Stanley's pinpoint cross and Jeremy Brockie's exquisite header the Jets had a halftime lead.

The game looked to be wrapped up when Brockie added a second. but Halloran finally found the net and gave the Gold Coast some hope. The goal certainly spurred the team on and five minutes later they were equal when Adama Traore overlapped from the back and finished with aplomb to leave the Gold Coast close to 15 minutes to find a winner.

Unfortunately the score remained on par for all of a minute as the Jets got forward from the kick off and Haliti finished. The Jets held on and the Gold Coast left an away trip empty handed for the sixth time this season.

They are however a much different side at home having only lost one of their five home matches this season. Unfortunately for Miron Bleiberg that loss was to the Melbourne Heart back

in November. The Hearts away record is one of the best in the competition having only lost two of their eight away matches thus far.

Gold 2.40

Draw 3.35

Heart 2.80

The Gold Coast's successful last month has been based on a solid defence having kept four clean sheets in the past month, while the Heart has managed to score in all but one their matches this season. I think the Gold Coast can take it right up to the Heart here and come away with at least a

Kiss of Death Gold Coast 1-1 Heart



Heart Line Up

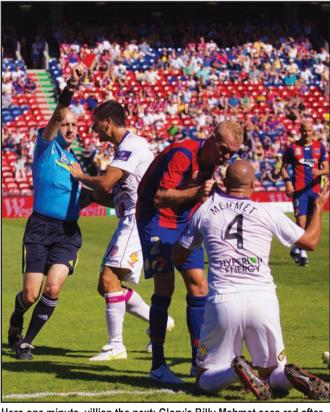
1.Clint Bolton (GK) 2.Michael Marrone 3.Brendan Hamill 4. Simon Colosimo 6.Matt Thompson 7.Rutger Worm 9.Maycon 11.Alex Terra 15.David Williams 16.Aziz Behich 17.Jason Hoffman 18.Curtis Good 19.Eli Babalj 23.Mate Dugandzic 25.Adrian Madaschi 30.Sebastian Mattei (GK) one to be omitted

ln: Maycon, David Williams (all promoted)

Out: Fred (groin 1-2 weeks)

Unavailable: Jonatan Germano (hamstring – 1 week), Nick Kalmar (back – 4 weeks), Kliment Taseski (foot – indefinite). Wayne Srhoj (quad – 1 week)

PIC OF THE ROUND 13



Hero one minute, villian the next: Glory's Billy Mehmet sees red after referee Strebre Dilovski issues the red card. Mehmet opened the scoring in the clash between Jets and Glory, but did not see the end of the end game after his rash tackle. A 10-man Glory hung on 1-1, and later in the week Billy's red card was overturned. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



ed fans finally had something to cheer about after the Reds broke through for their first win since November with a 2-0 victory over the Wellington Phoenix at Hindmarsh Stadium to commence Round 13.

Adelaide Unit-

Photo: ADAM

Big Wednesday a Big hit for A-League

The Big Wednesday 12-hour marathon of football yesterday has proved to be a big hit among fans on the terraces and at home. For the first time the Hyundai A-League staged a full round of five matches back-to-back across two nations, cities 5,000 kilometres apart, three timezones and an array of daytime, twilight and evening kick off times.

"Big Wednesday was designed to give fans some top-quality football in mid-week at the end of the festive season when most people are still on holidays," said Head of Hyundai A-League Lyall Gorman. "Based on a comparison with last season's mid-week numbers, the attendances and TV audiences have been outstanding. I congratulate the clubs and our broadcast partner Fox Sports for making the day such a success."

• The Big Wednesday marathon average attendance was 32.4%

up on the comparative mid-week fixtures from Season 6 in 2010/11 • The Big Wednesday marathon average TV audience was 30.5% up on the comparative mid-week fixtures from Season 6 in 2010/11 The Big Wednesday matches produced 23 goals at an average of 4.6 goals per game, making it the 2nd highest goals aggregate for a round and the 7th highest goals average for a round in A-League history.

"It wasn't just the number of goals that caught the eye, but the quality on show and the quite unpredictable results," said Gorman. "We are at the half-way mark and the A-League ladder tells the story of how close and interesting the competition is this season.

"The Premiership, the Top Six and the dreaded wooden spoon are all very much in play, so we can expect some fascinating action for the rest of the regular season."



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with Roger Sleeman

BIG WEDNESDAY SATURATION

There's no doubt we live in an era when television viewers have a huge coverage of live football and replays.

The decision by the FFA to run a full round of televised matches was indeed innovative but how many supporters spent the time viewing all matches.

Conversely, the FFA may have been attempting to gain as much exposure for the A-L eague by saturating the coverage and if they could encourage new supporters to watch at least a couple of games, the promotion would be justified

Admittedly, it is the holiday period but there's also fierce competition from tennis and cricket to capture the viewer's attention.

Personally, I think it was overdoing it and it would've been better to split the round over two days.

It'll be most interesting when the ratings come in from Fox Sports to know whether the experiment was a success.

BOSSCHAART CONTRACT

Pascal Bosschaart, the Sydney FC central defender, was a lucky man to secure a two year contract recently.

If his displays against Melbourne Heart and Wellington Phoenix were any recommendation, Sydney FC may have thought again about his Bosschaart for all his experience is only a fair player in the A- League and in particular his token attempts to close players down in the box against Heart and Phoenix were woeful.

Every junior defender should be told not to turn their back on attacking players, yet Bosschaart did exactly this against Jason Hoffman and Paul Ifill before they scored goals against Sydney FC.

Sydney FC let Matt Jurman and Antony Golec leave the club and surely they deserved more chance to fit into the squad.

Gary Cole will certainly have a challenge when he starts at the club next week and works with the coaching staff in addressing the defensive weaknesses of the team.

ZELIC, BOSNICH REFRESHING

One highlight of Big Wednesday was the guest appearance of Ned Zelic on the Fox Sports panel.

Zelic and Mark Bosnich are a great teaming, just as Bosnich and Robbie Slater were.

I'm not sure why Slater was dropped from the Saturday night panel but it's time he and Zelic replaced Mark Rudan.

Rudan was always one of the nicest guys in football as well as being a tough and reliable defender.

However just as the best players don't always make the best coaches; good players don't always make greatl

commentators

On a positive note, Jamie Harnwell is doing a fine job as an expert commentator and the fact is they're many more former players who should be considered for commentary roles. Paul Wade, Robbie Wheatley and Peter Katholos immediately spring to mind but all the Fox Sports management has to do is play back some interviews since the A-League started to examine other potential candidates.

BROKEN RECORD

The English commentators are at it again.

First it was Gary Taphouse who was calling the Chelsea v Spurs clash two weeks ago.

Jose Bosingwa made a run down the right before checking back on his left side to play a perfect cross to the far nost

Taphouse commented that he had used his weaker foot but just to support how good Bosingwa is on his left side, he hit a swerving ball from distance onto the cross bar in last week's match against Aston Villa. Also in last weekend's clash between Manchester United and Blackburn. expert commentator Terry Gibson described Yakubu's second goal from his left foot which thundered through the legs of United's keeper Paul De Gea as scored with his weaker foot. It's doubtful if Yakubu could've hit it harder or more directly with his so called natural right foot.

KOSMINA VOUCHING FOR LOCAL COACHES

It's only early days but in three matches John Kosmina has turned round Adelaide United which really justifies the demotion of Rini Coolen and supports the view local coaches should be given a chance wherever possible.

Knights coaches confirmed

By Melinda Cimera

The Melbourne Knights are pleased to announce their new coaching staff for the 2012 season.

The club has retained first team coach Paul Magdić, who hopes to go one step closer next season. "Basically, if we follow from where we left off last season, there is no reason we can't be playing finals football. Last season we proved to a lot of people we can compete with the best by defeating 4 of the top 5 sides. I believe with a few additions as well as the players we have retained from last season could be the difference for us. I hope to make the finals and do the community proud."

By his side as the new assistant coach will be former Club Brugge player Lorenz Kindtner, who almost donned the red white and blue after a two week training stint at the club. "After finishing in Belgium the first club I came back to was the Melbourne Knights. I was down for two weeks when lan Dobson was the coach, however the club was going with their younger players as it was their last

year in the top flight due to the NSL coming to an end. However I enjoyed my time at the club, and now after 8 years I'm back to help out Paul as an assistant coach."

A very welcome addition to the senior coaching staff is new goal keeper coach, and former player Frank Jurić. After a successful career in Germany, Jurić returns to the place he calls home. "It's great to be back, it feels really good to come back home to the Melbourne Knights. Winning the NSL with Knights was the highlight of my career, and I'm hoping that this year we can get back to those winnings ways."

After the departure of Mickey Čolina to St Albans Saints, former Prestion Lions coach Željko Gagula has been appointed under 21 coach. During his time at Preston as an assistant coach, the club won the 2007 Victorian Premier League. "I spent about 5 years at Preston as under 21 coach, assistant and first team coach. It's been over 10 years since I last coached at the Knights and sometimes you just want to get back to where you belong, especially when you have been away for

a while. I spent all my junior life here and some of my senior career. I'm very happy to be back here amongst the Knights community."

After a minor restructure, the under 18s will now be working closely alongside the under 21s, with the help of newly promoted coach Mario Jurjević similar to the Knights Colts and Academy set up during the National Soccer league, bringing the two squads under the senior management banner with a clear view to develop our own players for the future. Mario explains what he thinks the club is about. "In the coming season it's about producing players that are going to move on, not just to senior football here, but to A-league, Joeys, Olyroos etc. This is what the club has been known for, always producing national team players. It's now about reintroducing that spirit and culture that went missing for a few years back into these young minds." Coming up for the Knights in early 2011 will be trials for the under 18s and under 21s which will be held at Knights Stadium on Wednesday the 11th of January.



Innovative software sweeping across Latin America

By Francis Fields

What do clubs Once Caldas of Colombia, current Chilean and Copa Sudamericana holders Universidad de Chile, Uruguayan giants Peñarol and the Uruguayan national team all have in common? One of the latest and in-demand software developed for the beautiful game.

Kizanaro is the latest in software technology for football. It is an information technology and services company that provides sports statistical data solutions.

The software offers K-Studio Professional, a football-focused tactical analysis platform that provides support to the head coach and staff when aligning weekly tasks, such as rival or opposition planning, team and individual performance evaluations, along with creation and delivery of tactical chats.

Copa América champions Uruguay count on the software for the smallest of details with its technical staff at hand to analyse all the necessary data input that each match provides.

Kizanaro is a sports information development company designed in Uruguay and provides K-Real Professional software, a system that allows the head coach to receive match-related objective data in real time while sitting on the actual substitute bench for decision making during the course of the match. In addition, it offers rival analysis, team's post-match analysis, player scouting, and real-time customized analysis services.

This 2011 season, successful Uruguayan coaches Diego Aguirre at Peñarol - runner up in the Copa Libertadores, Gerardo Pelusso at Olimpia, Paraguay - 2011 champions and Uruguayan national team boss Oscar Washington Tabárez who finished 4th in South Africa's 2010 World Cup all praise the innovative software.

All three coaches highlight the advantages of the software that have allowed their collective data to be easily managed with fellow coaching staff and assess the strengths, weaknesses and analyses necessary to confront the demands of the professional modern game.

With 17 employees, it commercializes products and services for football teams as well as for media and entertainment. Through videos and specialized platforms, Kizanaro offers sports analysis software as a tool to evaluate the performance of a team and its rivals on the field.

Offering an innovative portfolio including: K-Studio Professional, a software that analyses team and individual football tactics; K-Real Time, a system that allows the Head Coach to receive real time and objective data about the match; K-Scouting, a product that keeps track of individual players throughout the season and compiles a report on their performance in images and video; and Playmaker, a football moves editor that replaces the paper boards used to plan game tactics.

Currently used by some Uruguayan professional first division clubs. Rapidly being accepted by fellow coaches across the continent and by other development coaches in other countries, it is Kizanaro's innovation that claimed the brand as of the 15 most innovative companies in Technology and Internet'



for Spanish and Portuguese-speaking markets across Latin America.

The company's products allow for transparent visualization of match related analysis and obtaining performance-based information related to team and individual players. It offers its solutions through the use of videos and other platforms focused on sports. The

company was founded in 2007 and is based in Montevideo, Uruguay Goal! Weekly is proud to introduce the innovative software for potential Australian buyers and markets for professional football environments.

For more information, visit the website on www.kizanaro.com Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine is now available at Melbourne Victory, Melbourne Heart, Newcastle Jets and Adelaide United home matches.

Don't miss your copy!!!







NYL Action Returns After Festive Break

By Daniel Quinn

Round 10 of the National Youth League took a break over the festive period and return on the weekend of January 6th.

But due to Qantas strike in round two of the National Youth League AIS vs. Melbourne Victory Youth was rescheduled for Wednesday 21 of December. So this week's "wrap" only includes that rescheduled tie and here are the details:

Late AIS goal takes the three points A goal just before full-time has taken the points for the AIS in a 3-2 victory over the Melbourne Victory at Deakin Football Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

Victory started the as the better of the two sides and took a lead in the first-half thanks to Luc Jeggo. The Austrian born midfielder headed home from close range after Hernan Espindola's ball fell for him.

The Victory youngsters were making the game difficult for the AIS with pressure on the ball and the AIS failed to create any good chances in the first-half.

But before half-time Jacob Melling equalised for the AIS with a great strike from 30 yards which sailed into the top

However early in the second-half AIS were behind once again, this time thanks to an own goal. Victory hit the hosts on the counter and the ball end up taking a deflection off an AIS defender. At this stage Victory had the lead with a 2-1 score line.

But AIS equalised once again, this time through Bright Appiah who game on at half-time. He capped off a great substitute appearance with a goal after keeper Keegan Coulter fumbled the initial effort.



Victory's Jacob Melling gets his foot to the ball to snuff out the danger to the AIS goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

After Appiah's equaliser AIS dominated the rest of the half and took the lead four minutes from full-time through James Field. Field was at unmarked at the back post to finish and win the game for the hosts.

The AIS with this win moved up to eighth onto 12 points, jumping Adelaide United on 8. Melbourne Victory remains winless and pointless at the foot of the table after 9 rounds.

Melbourne Victory coach Darren Davies and his players were absolutely gutted as they believe they should have

at least went home with a point.

"We were very disappointed. The boys did extremely well and we created a number of chances and everybody there at the ground and the opposition acknowledged that we deserved something from the game and we should have got something from the game. So the boys were very, very, very disappointed but on a positive note this is much better than we were two months ago. Now we are disappointed we are not winning games."

When asked if they conceded sloppy

goals like the previous weeks Davies blamed that on the maturity of his play-

"That is a matter of maturity and when the young lads get tired they switch off and with the last goal, somebody was unmarked at the far stick. The AIS are probably the only team who are a similar age group to us, obviously they are younger than us but it was a good game with two footballing teams looking to try and play and it was a very good game."

Davies thinks that the points could

have gone either way.

"I think they (the points) could have gone either way. But chance to chance I have seen them I think we had the better of the first-half, they came into the game in the second-half and but for chance to chance we have missed a number of chances but I think we definitely deserved something from the game, if not a point then three points." The Welshman also praised James Jeggo in the middle of the park.

"James Jeggo in the middle of the park was out most senior player, a

Results

Newcastle Jets 1:0 Sydney FC Adelaide United 2:2 Gold Coast United Melbourne Victory 0:2 AIS Brisbane Roar 1:0 CC Mariners Perth Glory FC 3:0 Melbourne Heart

NYL Standings

P W D L F A D P
1 Perth Glory 9 6 2 1 20 13 7 20
2 Melbourne Heart 9 6 0 3 18 15 3 18
3 Brisbane Roar 9 5 2 2 26 20 6 17
4 Newcastle Jets 9 4 2 3 20 15 5 14
5 Sydney FC 9 4 2 3 25 17 8 14
5 CC Mariners 9 4 1 4 17 10 7 13
7 Gold Coast United 9 4 1 4 16 15 1 13
8 AIS 9 4 0 5 15 20 -5 12
9 Adelaide United 9 2 2 5 11 20 -9 8
10 Melbourne Victory 9 0 0 9 7 29 -22 0

Next Round

Fri 6 Jan 12 4:00pm

CC Mariners Vs Gold Coast United
Pluim Park, Central Coast

Sat 7 Jan 12 11:00am

AIS Vs Perth Glory

AIS Athletics Track, Canberra

Sat 7 Jan 12 3:00pm **Melbourne Heart FC Vs Sydney FC** John Cain Memorial Park, Thornbury

Sun 8 Jan 12 3:00pm **Melbourne Victory Vs Newcastle Jets** Kingston Heath, Cheltenham

Sun 8 Jan 12 4:00pm Adelaide United FC Vs Brisbane Roar Burton Park

1992 born and James done very, very well, organising and that and I was very happy with James."



W-League

goalweekly.com



PWDLFADP

Canberra Utd on the verge of title win

By FFA

The Westfield W-League is set for the most exciting finale in its four-year history after heavyweights Sydney FC suffered a shock 2-1 reversal at home against the resurgent Newcastle Jets.

The result, combined with Melbourne Victory's 1-1 draw with Canberra United in an abbreviated Week 10, leaves just three points separating second and fifth with two rounds remaining.

The big winners of the weekend were Canberra who, despite being held on their road trip to Melbourne, are now just one point away from claiming the premiership.

Canberra can make it a dual celebration when they host Adelaide United next weekend where Jitka Klimkova's team will be aiming to go through the league season undefeated

United though needed a late intervention from ace goalgetter Michelle Heyman in Melbourne to maintain their proud record. Heyman cracked home a wonderful strike from the edge of the penalty area with just nine minutes remaining to draw the team's level.

The goal was Heyman's tenth of the campaign and leaves the Wollongong-born striker closing in on her second Westfield W-League top goalscorers crown within three seasons.

The only player that can seemingly haul in Heyman is Victory's Jodie Taylor who scored from the penalty spot in the first half for her eighth of the season.

Victory made much of the running in hot conditions on the artificial surface but found Canberra's Lydia Williams in inspired form once again.

Indeed it was the visitors who could have

snatched the game at the death with Taryn Hemmings denied by a wonderful Brianna Davey intervention.

The result was a costly one for Victory who are suddenly in danger of missing the finals with the Jets just two points in arrears with a game in hand

game in hand.
The last time Newcastle played at Campbelltown Stadium they secured an against-



Victory's Danielle Johnson (left) and Canberra's Taryn Hemmings borg miss with their header. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Canberra captain Ellie Brush sets herself to try to block as Victory's Kenfall Fletcher prepares to shoot. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



The competition's leading scorer, Michelle Heyman, is up in the air after scoring a late equaliser for Canberra against Melbourne Victory. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Standings

Next Round

Sat 7 Jan 12 3:00pm Canberra United Vs Adelaide United McKellar Park, Canberra

Sat 7 Jan 12 3:00pm

Newcastle Jets Vs Brisbane Roar

Adamstown Oval, Newcastle

Sat 7 Jan 12 4:00pm **Perth Glory Vs Sydney FC** 6PR Stadium, Inglewood

Melbourne Victory Vs Bye

the-odds 2-1 win, and they repeated the feat in equally impressive fashion.

The Jets were hungry from the opening whistle and could easily have been two goals to the good inside the opening ten minutes before getting their reward via a pinpoin Gema Simon strike.

Nicola Bolger, playing against her former club, soon made it two and only the long arms of Sky Blues goalkeeper Allison Lipsher halted Lisa De Vanna's lofted effort to prevent an astonishing three-goal half-time deficit.

Sydney returned from the break with renewed vigour creating numerous opportunities but only Renee Rollason could convert. The result leaves Sydney third, a point behind rivals Brisbane Roar, with the pair to meet in a potentially pivotal final round match in a fortnight.

Adelaide United, Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory all had the bye ahead of next week's penultimate round.













Sunday January 8th

10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - Highlights of the 2011 Copa Sudamericana Final - 2nd Leg: Universidad de Chile v Liga de Quito.

12:00 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial - A weekly football magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the

Monday January 9th 04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial 11:05 PM The World Game

SBS TWO Monday January 9th 09:30 PM The World Game

SETANTA SPORTS

Ligue 1 Round 19 Teams TBC 4:55am

Ligue 1 Round 19 St Etienne v PSG

6:55am LIVE Saturday 24-Dec Scottish Premier League Round 20 St

Mirren v Rangers 11:40pm LIVE

Scottish Premier League Round 20 Dundee United v Hibernian 1:45am 1st

Thursday 29-Dec

Scottish Premier League Round 21 Celtic v Rangers 6:40am LIVE

Scottish Premier League Round 21 Hibernian v Inverness 8:45am 1st Airing

11:25pm LIVE

Scottish Premier League Round 22 Hibernian v Hearts 11:10pm LIVE

Tuesday 3-Jan

Scottish Premier League Round 22 Dunfermline v Celtic 1:55am LIVE Scottish Premier League Round 22 Kilmarnock v St Mirren 12:15pm 1st

Friday 6-Jan Blue Square Premier Round 28 Cambridge v Southport 6:25am LIVE

FA Cup Round 3 Birmingham v Wolves



The Futbol Town Show Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV Channel 31 Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show Every Saturday 10.30am



01:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Newcastle 04:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Newcastle

Saturday 07th January 06:00 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V Queens Park

Sunday 08th January 04:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester

United's Greatest Games

City's Greatest Goals 05:30 am 500 Great Goals

Tuesday 10th January 04:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Arsenal's **Greatest Games** 06:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights 07:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Wednesday 11th January 04:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup - Liverpool's Greatest Games

Thursday 12th January 03:00 am 500 Great Goals 03:30 am Serie A: Internazionale V Parma 05:30 am FA Cup Classics Newcastle United V Tottenham Hotspur 3rd Round Replay 99/00



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

Week 20

Thu Jan 12 Tottenham v Everton 6.38 am 1.53 am Sun Jan 15 Tottenham v Wolves Sun Jan 15 Man Utd v Bolton 1.53 am Sun Jan 15 Aston Villa v Everton 1.53 am Viewers Choice

1.53 am

Viewers Choice Sun Jan 15 Liverpool v Stoke 1.53 am

Sun Jan 15 Chelsea v Sunderland

Viewers Choice Sun Jan 15 West Brom v Norwich 1.53 am

Viewers Choice Sun Jan 15 Blackburn v Fulham 12.30 pm **DELAY**

Mon Jan 16 Newcastle v QPR 12.23 am Mon Jan 16 Swansea v Arsenal 2.53 am Mon Jan 17 Wigan v Man City 6.53 am

ENGLISH CARLING CUP Semi-Finals, Leg 1

Wed Jan 11 Crystal Palace v Cardiff 6.30 am Thu Jan 12 Man City v Liverpool 6.40 am

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE Sat Jan 7 Wycombe v Huddersfield 6.30 am

A-LEAGUE LIVE

Sat Jan 7 Adelaide v Brisbane Roar 5.30 pm Sat Jan 7 Melb Victory v Newcastle 7.45 pm Sun Jan 8 Wellington v Perth Glory 2.00 pm Sun Jan 8 Sydney v Central Coast Sun Jan 8 Gold Coast v Melb Heart 6.30 pm



Rodriguez's

NAME: Fiii **CAPITAL:** Suva POPULATION:(2009 approx.) 849,000 **CONFEDERATION: OFC**

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: South Pacific Games winners 1991, 2003; runners-up 1963, 1979, 1983, 2007 FIFA WORLD RANKING: 161st

WHO ARE YA?

The Republic of Fiji is a grouping of islands located in the Melanesian region of the South Pacific Ocean, north-east of New Zealand's North Island. With a rich indigenous culture stretching back thousands of years, the islands remained isolated from the rest of the world(save for cultural incursions by Polynesian peoples) until the arrival of Europeans Dutch and British particularly - in the 1600s. However it would be the latter who subjugated the islands in 1874, effectively deposing Seru Epenisa Cakobau, 'the last king' of Fiji.

The British introduced a great many things as a result - cementing the permanence of English and Christianity within the Fijian nation, and introducing indentured labourers of Indian and Chinese heritage to the islands to work on the fields - it was the former group which would assert its cultural presence on Fijian life centuries down the track. In 1970 the islands finally gained sovereignty within the British Commonwealth. but 17 years later a military coup forcibly changed the country to a republic. Later still in 2000, another coup with George Speight as its main figure sought to 'return' political power to 'native' Fijians, insinuating that the Indo-Filian community had monopolised the reins of power for too long. The latest coup in 2006 which put Commodore Frank Bainimarama in the political spotlight is but a sad instance of the instability plaguing one of Australia's nearest neighbours.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Though rugby union is the dominant sport in Fiji, football is still modestly popular there despite the lack of success on the global arena. Traditionally the country was seen as the next-strongest Oceania nation after the 'Big Two' of Australia and New Zealand, before the emergence of the Solomon Islands. The Fijians' occasional scalps at the Socceroos' and All Whites' expense are testament to this (most notably prior to Argentina '78 qualifiers when the Aussies succumbed to a 1-0 friendly loss in Suva, as well as the WC qualifying loss by the same margin 11 years later in Nadi. As for the Kiwis, a 4-0 hiding by the Fijians at the 1980 Oceania Nations Cup and a 2-0 loss at the 2008 edition rank as footballing low-



Planed Foodball

Osea shields the ball from his Al-Wahda Club opponent at the 2010 Club World Cup



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

lights). Past coaches of the Fijian NT have included former Socceroo coaches Rudi Gutendorf and Les Scheinflug, as well as former Marconi coach Lee Sterrey and the Uruguayan Juan Carlos Buzzetti, a former coach of the Vanuatu NT in the early Noughties.

However despite the defection of Australia to the AFC in 2006, Fijian football has lost ground in recent years to the Solomons and the revitalised All Whites, expectant as the latter are to qualify for a first-ever consecutive World Cup in Brazil

BIG CLUBS

Ba FC is the country's domestic powerhouse - nicknamed 'The Men in Black' for their all-black strip, they have won 14 District League titles, 22 Inter-District titles, the 'Battle of the Giants' domestictournament 14 times and 8 Fiji FA Cups.

Their best finish in Oceania Champions League(O-League) competition was second in 2007 to NZ's Waitakere United. who qualified for the first of two appearances in the World Club Cup as a result. Other clubs of note are Lautoka, Labasa, Rewa, Nadi and Suva FCs

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed the Bula Boys or Timi Ni Viti 'The National Team', the Fijian NT wears the template of the country's famed rugby team - white(sometimes in a slightlygreyish shade) tops with black shorts and socks corresponding to the shirt. In the past the Bula Boys would also wear a blue-and-white uniform as an away or clash strip

MATCHWINNERS

Esala Masi is widely regarded as the country's greatest player, with the burly veteran striker enjoying a lengthy club career in Australia. He is best remembered by Aussie fans for his exploits at NSL level with the Gippsland Falcons, Wollongong Wolves and the Newcastle Jets in their original 'United' incarnation. After the league's collapse he moved on to the VPL where he turned out for Oakleigh, Frankston Pines and Altona Magic before brief stints at home and in Brisbane's metropolitan leagues, where he last turned out for Mitchelton FC. In his international career from 1997 to 2005 he was capped 35 times and scored 23 goals for Fiji. His cousin Manoa, a midfielder also played(briefly) for the Falcons in the NSL

Fellow striker Roy Krishna flies the flag for the current crop, having already amassed 58 games and 31 goals for Waitakere United, including one at the Kiwi champs' 2008 Club World Cup appearance - shortly after which he attracted interest from not only the Wellington Phoenix but Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven! Not bad praise for a player whose career for country is still only 19 caps and 14 goals old, despite both dream moves sadly falling through. Another young striker, 192cm-tall Osea Vakatalesau had brief stints at fellow Kiwi side YoungHeart Manawatu and PNG's Hekari United during their showing at the 2010 Club World Cup. Whilst a Fijian youth international, Vakatalesau was described in an early-2005 issue of Soccer International magazine as being 'reminiscent of a young Patrick Vieira' in his guile and physique, despite being a striker unlike the French Arsenal defensive legend. Nevertheless such praise does beg the question of how far Fiji's raw young talents could go if only they were privy to the development programs/systems found in football's developed nations.

SO WHAT NOW?

The Fijians host this year's Oceania Nations Cup(3-11 June), which doubles as the second-round of Oceania's WC 2014 qualifiers. Draw in Group B with chief rivals New Zealand and the Solomon Islands plus uber-minnows Papua New Guinea, the Bula Boys' clashes against the former two will be paramount in determining their World Cup destiny...at least until the play-off against CONCA-CAF's 4th-placed nation comes around should they actually defy the odds to get that far. Juan Carlos Buzzetti's recent appointment as National Coaching Director(expected to be combined with actually coaching the NT again) is a sliver of light on the horizon, as it is imperative that playing/coaching/development standards are improved and set in order to lay the groundwork for any future

international success

HOT: First up I hope you the readers have all had an awesome Christmas and New Year - 2012 is gonna be another cracking year in world football! The Brisbane Roar returned to the winners' list in their NYE clash against the Victory; a timely confidence-boost given their impending Asian Champions League campaign, for which Japanese Emperor's Cup winners FC Tokyo have been confirmed as their final group-opponents. Over at the Mariners, Matt Simon has agreed to a deal with South Korea's Chunnam Dragons, departing for the K-League club upon completing his duties against MV midweek. Adelaide's fortunes keep improving since of Kossie's return to the helm, presiding over their 3-1 win against the Heart just at the time of writing - that shouldn't put off the red & white half of town though, given their recent good run of form under JVS. On the overseas front, credit must go to Martin O'Neill's Sunderland side as the Black Cats upset Man City in the EPL, no doubt putting some heat back on Roberto Mancini. On that topic, will Carlos Tevez remain at City for much longer? Maybe Paris St. Germain can look into him, now they have reportedly failed to snare Becks from the LA Galaxy's grasp..

OT: Seeing Matt McKay, instrumental as he was for the Brisbane Roar last season(and as he's been since Season 1) practically rotting on the bench at Rangers is not something in the best interests of Australian football, let alone his own career. I wonder sometimes if our Aussie players in particular are prone to hasty decisions for the sake of being on the books of a foreign club. And yes, Rangers is no doubt a big club, but what's the point if he's not guaranteed(theoretically of course) at least X amount of first-team games? A move to a more modest league(or even a minnow side in a top league, such as David Carney's recent move to AD Alcorcón in the Liga Adelante) would have guaranteed a substantial amount of game time and still challenged him as a player but as things stand now, the chances of him being picked for the Socceroos based on current form alone are slim to say the least out of this on-field mire it finds itself in sooner than later!

GET CONNECTED TO MELBOURNE VICTORY!































goal Weekl

Torpedo and Chelsea tours in 1965



With Roy Hay

In the 1960s Australia played host to a number of club teams from Europe who played against state and national representative sides and helped raise the standard of the game in this country.

In 1965 two very contrasting teams arrived, Moscow Torpedo and Chelsea. Neither team was at full strength for the whole of its tour, but there was enough talent to see off most of the opposition. Hapoel Tel-Aviv also toured that year, while Vfb Stuttgart played a single game, notable for the fact that Tommy Docherty, who was the Chelsea coach on their tour, pulled on the boots as guest with Prague from Sydney. The Stuttgart coach was one Rudi Gutendorf. In addition there were short visits by teams from New Caledonia, which upstaged New South Wales in its final match and Auckland from New Zealand. Several of the people who appeared in Australia that year were to have significant later appearances in this country, including Terry Venables and Peter Osgood, as well as Docherty and Gutendorf.

Torpedo arrived in February during their winter break without some its stars including Valery Voronin and Valentin Ivanov who had been with the Russian World Cup squad in Chile in 1962. They began with a two-nil win over a combined Australian team in Perth. Several players were flown from the eastern states for the match including Hammy McMeechan, Tommy Stankovic and Cliff van Blerk. The next game was in Sydney and this time the Sydney select managed a fine one-all draw thanks to a goal from Roy Blitz which equalised an earlier one from Oleg Sergeyev. Les Scheinflug captained the Sydney team which also included Herbert Ninaus, Walter Tamandl, Pat Hughes, Alan Hetherington and Vic Reynolds. The crowd was given as 30,000. Midfielder Vladimir Brednev was outstanding for the Russians. Torpedo beat Victoria 4-0 and 4-1 in the games against the state side. In all Torpedo played seven games, scoring 16 goals and only conceding two.

Chelsea landed in May at the conclusion of the English league season in which it had finished third behind Manchester United and Leeds. Chelsea won the League Cup that year and reached the semi-final of the FA Cup, so it was a hugely talented young side which arrived. Unfortunately for Australian fans, Peter Bonetti, John Hollins, Rob Tambling and Bert Murray had to return home early in the tour to play with the England Under-23

team. But there was still a lot of quality on display including Barry Bridges, Peter Houseman, Jim McCalliog, Terry Venables, Ron Harris, George Graham and Peter Osgood, who established himself as a real star striker.

Chelsea ran riot in the early games against the state sides, though Victoria held the visitor to a one-nil result and South Australia only went down by 2–1. The national team did even better, holding Chelsea to two-all and one-all draws in Sydney and Melbourne respectively.

The line-ups for the game against Victoria were: Victoria: Norm Hobson, Nigel Shepherd, Billy Cook, Vic Janczyk, Billy Rice, Frank Micic, Mike Mandalis (Don Hodgson), John Anderson (Mike Jurecki), Archie Blue, Vera Mladenovic, Tom Stankovic; Coach: Vic Janczyk. Chelsea: Peter Bonetti, Marvin Hinton, Ron Harris, John Hollins, John Mortimore, Frank Upton (John Boyle), Albert Murray, George Graham, Peter Osgood, Jimmy McCalliog (Peter Houseman), Bobby Tampling; Coach: Tommy Docherty. McAlliog got the only goal a minute after half-time. Lou Stafrace refereed the game in front of 16,000 at Olympic Park on 16 May 1965.

On the following Saturday the South Australians put out: Charlie Horvath, Jimmy Mill, Frank Balter, Karl Marton, Syd Rossetto, Andy Balter, John Moriarty, Graham Roper, Alex Byrne, Peter Basic, Mike Muzyka; Coach: John Lindquist. Peter Basic scored for South Australia in the 50th minute just seconds after Osgood had put the visitors two ahead. The first was an unfortunate own goal.

The next day Chelsea played a full Australian selection in Sydney and was roundly criticised for fielding an understrength team by Soccer News. 'Chelsea have not lived up to their English reputation', the paper wrote, expecting that Australia would win the next game against the tourists. It is true that Chelsea were full-time professionals but the schedule they faced in Australia would be regarded as intolerable today. The match ended in a two-all draw at the Showgrounds, with Osgood scoring after 9 minutes and Frank Upton adding a second for Chelsea in 84 minutes. Between these two, Roy Blitz and John Watkiss scored for the Socceroos in 30 and 76 minutes respectively.

So the Socceroos and Chelsea met again at Olympic Park on 30 May, with the following line-ups: Australia: John Roberts, Nigel Shepherd,



Arthur E Gibbs. Source: Unknown.

Football official and administrator, Gibbs was secretary of the Anglo-Australian Football Association and later represented Australia on the council of the Football Association in England from 1910 to 1928.



John Watkiss outjumps Frank Upton of Chelsea. Source: Soccer News, 27 May 1965, p. 3. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.

George Nuttall, Pat Hughes, Billy Cook, Les Scheinflug, Roy Blitz, John Anderson, John Watkiss, Eric Pattison (Don Hodgson), Jim Pearson. Coach: Tiko Jelisavcic. Chelsea: John Barron, Ken Shellito (John Mortimore), Ron Harris, John Boyle, Marvin Hinton, Frank Upton, Barry Bridges, George Graham, Peter Osgood, Jimmy McCalliog (Joe Fascione), Peter Houseman. Coach: Tommy Docherty. Barry Bridges, who had been flown in as a replacement for the departed Under-23s, scored for Chelsea and Watkiss was again on target for the Socceroos.

Ted Smith remembers vividly the Chelsea play which he described as vibrant. He was blown away by their free kick routines, when three players would converge on the ball and deliver rocket shots or crosses. 'The thing was', he said, 'They never mucked it up, like we often see today.' When Wellington Phoenix were in town recently, I spoke to All Whites and Phoenix coach, Ricky Herbert who played for Tommy Dockerty at Sydney Olympic and Wolverhampton Wanderers. I put the often-made criticism to him that Docherty was a great motivator but not a top tactical coach. Herbert said this was not his view. 'He set out his team sensibly and he knew his game', he replied.

I am indebted to Ricky Herbert, Ted Smith, the late Laurie Schwab and to Greg Stock and the Ozfootball contributors for much of the information in this column and Uwe Kuessner for the photographs.



Bodies everywhere in the Socceroos versus Chelsea at Olympic Park in 1965. From the left: Pat Hughes, John Roberts, Peter Osgood, George Graham, John Mortimore, and George Nuttall. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their Opponents. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.



A TRIBUTE TO 'MUZZA'

By Roger Sleeman

he tragic news of the passing of former Sydney City and Socceroo great, Murray Barnes, which heralded the New Year was a major shock to the football community and most particularly to the Sydney City supporters who worshipped the gentle giant.

Barnes first came to the attention of Sydney Hakoah supporters when he returned with Kevin Mullen and Graeme Brown after a year playing for Leeds United youth team in the 1972/73 English season.

It was difficult for local players to make the first team at that time because of the high standard of overseas players but Barnes, Kevin Mullen and Steve O'Connor were all able to command a spot in the first team squad and make regular appearances.

In Johnny Warren's final match for St George in the 1974 NSW Grand Final, these three local lads were an integral part of coach Dave McClaren's selection.

At this stage of his career Barnes was gaining the reputation as a combatitive and dangerous strik-

His pace, finishing skills and heading ability were feared by all opponents.

I well remember a brilliant hattrick he scored at the Sydney Athletic Field in 1975 which included a thunderous volley with his left foot from 25 metres.

Barnes had an amazing swivel which gave him maximum power to shoot on the turn with either foot and he was even being compared to the immortal Ray Baartz because of this great technique.

Naturally, Barnes was destined to play for the Socceroos but I always believed he was best used as a striker rather than in midfield where sometimes he would be used to stop other players by na-

His international record is well chronicled but his greatest achievement was being appointed as captain of the Socceroos by Rudi Gutendorf in 1981

Barnes played with household names at Sydney City including Eddie Thomson, John Kosmina, Frank Farina, Ken Boden, David Mitchell, Jim Patikas, Martin Coe, Todd Clarke, Joe Watson, Alex Robertson, John Stevenson, Kevin Mullen, Steve O'Connor, Ian Souness, Agenor Muniz, Tony Pezzano, lan Souness and Grant Lee. It wasn't any wonder the club won four NSL titles before it was unceremoniously pulled out of the NSL in 1987 by the Hakoah board after only one game played in the competition.

It was no surprise Barnes ended his career in the NSL after this because the club he had served for 16 years was such an important part of his life that he didn't feel he could be loyal to any other club.

Murray Barnes was not just a magnificent footballer, he was a man with incredible integrity and

I clearly recall meeting him and his team-mates at the Hakoah club after matches in the 70's and 80's. He loved talking football and respected the supporter's opinions as diverse as they may have been.

I well remember in 1998 when I was doing some media work for Northen Spirit that I had to contact former Socceroos who had learned their football in Sydney's North Shore to invite them to the official opening of the club

I contacted Robbie Wheatley, Robbie Hooker, Joe Alagich and Bobby Catlin but I also needed to locate Murray Barnes.

After some searching and assistance from former Hakoah great, Robbie Fekete, I tracked Barnes down to his upholstery business in Rose Bay North.



Murray Barnes and Steve Sumner exchange pennants before the World Cup qualifier at Mt Smart stadium, Auckland on 25 April 1981, which ended in a three-all draw. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection Deakin University Library.

It had been a long time but Barnes was so excited to be invited to the event that he suggested he would ring the club and accept the invita-

The phone call was answered by Manny Zammitt, the Spirit Vice Chairman, and when Murray announced who he was, Zammitt replied "Murray Who?"

For the next five minutes Murray and I laughed our heads off but most importantly he had a fantastic time at that function.

I was privileged to attend the ceremony when Barnes was admitted to the Hall of Fame in 2000 and there was no prouder recipient of an award on the day.

Murray Barnes will live on in Australian football folklore as one of the greatest Australian produced players and there can be be doubt if he had been born twenty years later, he would've been one of our most successful exports.

Murray Barnes Fact File

Information from OzFootball.net

Socceroo Honours Total - 49 app. 8 gls

1975 - China, USSR, USSR, USSR, USSR (1 goal), USSR

1976 - Velez Mostar (1 goal), Tottenham, Sunderland, Heart of Midlothian, Bologna, New Zealand, New Zealand (1 goal), Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Singapore, KSV Deunatal

1977 - Bobby Charlton All-Stars (1 goal), Arsenal, Celtic, Red Star Belgrade, Israel, Fiji, Hong Kong (1 goal), Iran, South Korea, Kuwait

1978 - Greece, Greece (1 goal)

1979 - Wisla Krakow, Partizan Belgrade

1980 - Northern Ireland, Mexico, Mexico, Greece (1 goal), Israel, England B, Fiorentina, Leicester City, Dinamo Zagreb, Hong

1981 - Dinamo Zagreb, New Zealand, New Zealand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Fiji (1 goal), Fiji

Australian Underage Representative Honours U/23 - 1974 Indonesian Tour

Club Record 1974 - 1987 Sydney City Hakoah Australian Champions: 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982.



Murray Barnes, eyes shut, backward header, Branko Buljevic on ground. Sydney City versus South Melbourne Hellas at Middle Park. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection Deakin University Library.



Murray Barnes puts in a typically vigorous challenge. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection Deakin University Library.

Pappas in overdrive

By Craig MacKenzie

■ E'S the wunderkind of Australian coaching but if you look at the path he's trod these past couple of years you'd barely see him for dust.

Arthur Pappas is not just on the fast track to the top. Blink and he's gone. This 31-year-old coaching whiz-kid has been propelled at breakneck speed and most of that momentum is of his own making.

He's had help along the way. Having Nino Ragusa, Vlado Tortevski, Chris Taylor, Rob Baan, Jan Versleijen, Han Berger, John Boultbee and Gary van Egmond in your corner is a support group with enormous clout but they all have been won over by this man's amazing work ethic, his propensity to learn and, dare we say it, his coaching ability.

Try this workload for size. Anywhere between 70 and 80 hours a week as a scholarship coach at the AIS, often sleeping on campus, while also studying for his master's degree in sports science - standard fare for Pappas for almost 18 months.

"I knew early on that I didn't have the playing credentials to support a coaching career at the highest level so I had to figure out what could give me an advantage or what could fill in that gap," he said.

Since assisting Taylor at Melbourne Knights a couple of years back he's worked at the AIS, worked with the Joeys and Young Socceroos, coached Oakleigh to its highest ever Victorian Premier League finish (2011 Grand Final), won the VPL coach of the year award, helped to structure Melbourne Heart's youth set-up, now assists van Egmond at the Jets, is head coach of the Newcastle club's youth team, will complete his master's degree shortly and is hopeful that he'll get his AFC A licence this year.

"It's been a crazy couple of years that's for sure," he said.

The origins of this coaching juggernaut can be traced back to his experiences as a junior primarily with Fawkner but also with Northcote back in Victoria.

He was just six years old when he joined Fawkner and one of his first coaches was Ragusa.

Young Pappas was the most inquisitive child in the group. Tell him what to do then show him how to do it and he still had a question or three to ask.

These were the early signs of a thirst for knowledge and a drive to better himself that have underpinned his success thus far, traits that led him to sign up for his first coaching course when

And these were traits that Ragusa encouraged. So much so that their 25-year friendship is as strong as ever and although Pappas didn't say it there must have been an extra spring in his step earlier this week when he signed Ragusa's son Anthony on a youth contract with the Jets

During his time at Northcote, Pappas was coached by former South Melbourne Hellas star Arthur Xanthopoulos and they would link up again when Pappas played for Heidelberg's under-21s in the national youth league.

But Pappas realised quite early in his career that his body couldn't stand the physical demands of the sport.

"My body simply couldn't take it. Some people are not genetically predisposed to withstand the physical pressures of playing football and unfortunately I was one of them. I suffered too many injuries and in the end I had to stop playing."

But before his early playing retirement the holding midfielder had spells at Thomastown, making his senior debut at State One level, and also played with Fawkner's under-21s.

Ragusa was his coach at Thomastown

and a few years later talked Pappas into assisting him with the Whittlesea youngsters competing in the national youth league

That link with Whittlesea was the trigger that Pappas needed and when he coached the club's under-21s at the ripe old age of 24 he was bitten by the

"That was when I decided that I had to educate myself to make up for my lack of playing pedigree compared to other people getting involved in coaching.

"I started researching different courses and I came across degrees in exercise science and at 25 I ended up at University of Ballarat."

Pappas continued to coach, now at senior level, and his first taste of success was when he led Westgate to the State Two North-West championship in 2006.

He was still flying under the radar but not as far as Altona Magic head coach VPL season.

and it was a great learning experi-



else and met Chris (Taylor) that night and we got on quite well with each other. He said he'd been told that I was arrogant and was surprised that I didn't come across that way.

"But we build up a good rapport and Chris and Matt Tomas (club chairman) made a big effort to get me to Melbourne Knights as an assistant."

Pappas joined the Knights in round four of the 2008 season but it was a bumpy ride at first.

"At one of my first training sessions I clashed with a very senior player. Chris was there and he was happy with the way I dealt with it but it was a huge learning experience for me.

"It's experiences like that you learn from and build on and I know now how to deal with different players.

"But overall Melbourne Knights was a great place to learn and I'm still close to Chris to this day, in fact we're on the phone to each other almost every week.

took off for me because the instructors recommended me to Rob Baan (then FFA technical director) and I ended up receiving an email from John Boultbee

inviting me to Sydney to be interviewed for an AIS scholarship position.

"I'd been told by some people that I couldn't get it and that just made me even more determined but to be perfectly honest it's something I'd always

"I was still extremely nervous though when I first met Gary and had to work with him and Jan at the AIS."

Pappas was contracted from June 2009 till June 2011 but in November 2010 arrangements were put in place that allowed him to take on the job of head coach of Oakleigh in the VPL.

It was a bold move and many observers wondered how he'd cope with the on- and off-field pressures of such a job. Not Pappas though.

"I went in strong at Oakleigh because it was a job that could have destroyed my name. Fortunately for me, Altona Magic and Melbourne Knights had made me street smart so I had to make sure that I would have the support at Oakleigh that I needed and that they would help me in everything I wanted

"And that's exactly what happened. They stuck by me all the way.

"I knew that I had to make radical changes because there were a lot of people who had become too comfortable there. I also knew that I had to make adjustments too because I was going to a semi-pro set-up.

"But I left Oakleigh with a blueprint to build a team and to build a culture and I think that I brought a new level of professionalism that they can build on next season.

"I know Huss Skenderovic (new Oakleigh coach) very well and he is really serious about his coaching. I'm confident that he will do well."

Melbourne Heart was the next port of call. While at Oakleigh, Pappas had been helping to build Heart's youth set-up for its inaugural season in the national youth league and when the VPL season ended he was officially unveiled as assistant to youth coach John Aloisi.

There was another role for him at Heart though, one that he enjoys and one that he is experienced in - preparing and conducting video analysis for first team supremo John van't Schip.

"I've been involved in performance analysis for a while now. I learned a lot of that side of coaching at the AIS. "Basically it's about filming games

using a much wider view than the TV would use then cutting up moments that the coach is looking for to go over with the playing group.' It's also another string to Pappas's

bow. He's proficient in the use of SportsCode, digital video editing software that proliferates in professional sport across the world.

But it's a skill that van Egmond rather than van't Schip can now call upon for just three months into his official stint with Heart the Jets came knocking and he was on the move once more.

"Heart reacted really well, in fact they were excellent. They didn't want me to leave but they understood that I'd be assisting Gary as well as becoming head youth coach.

And chief performance analyst to boot, receiving DVDs each week of the Jets' game and that of their next opponent and using his SportsCode skills to produce a presentation for the playing group 24 hours later.

And he seems to be thriving in his new

"I think now I'll just see where all of this takes me. I'm very settled at Newcastle and I'm really happy here, in fact I told Gary the other day that this was the happiest I'd been in football for a very long time."

For mere mortals such comments would be strongly suggestive of contentment. Maybe even a sign that things are finally slowing down.

But I don't think that applies to workaholics such as Pappas, in fact I don't expect the brakes to be applied to his juggernaut for a long, long time to

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Arthur Pappas wins the 2011 VPL Coach of the Year Award whilst with Oakleigh Cannons. Here he is flanked by players Frank Lagana, Peter Zois, Ricky Diaco and Rama Tavsancioglu. Photo: ANIT AMILAS



Arthur Pappas celebrates a goal with Ricky Diaco and Frankie Lagana in the 2011 VPL Grand Final. In a pulsating contest Green Gully defeated Oakleigh Cannons 3-2. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



The spirit of St George stadium in Sydney's south lies in decay

By Francis Fields

Historic stadiums remain in the folklore of a city, in its landscape, within a given community and most importantly in the memory of its people, in this case football purists and pundits alike.

Unfortunately it is a sad fact in Australian football - as is the case worldwide that some stadiums are no longer in use, some have been demolished for public, private or other developments while others, left to decay.

Names like goalkeeper John Filan, coaches like Rale Rasic, on-field players like Scott Ollerenshaw, Andy Harper, Robbie Slater started out in early Socceroo World Cup qualifiers, with the great Johnny Warren, Attila Abonyi and even Argentina's Osvaldo Ardiles gracing the ground as well on the banks of the Cooks River. "There are no funds", which is true.

Which is exactly what the antifootball (pro-Aussie rules, pro Rugby code authorities) aim to ploy. Dating back to the 70s, and the Ampol Cup as Tony the groundskeeper kindly gave his input about St George stadium in his mixed English-Italian, "big names played here and began their careers on this field". Indeed his facts are correct. His current 52 years of service at the club is testament to his daily input, making sure the dressing rooms are tidy, the grass is cut, the pitch is playable, the grandstand is swept and the carpark gate is unlocked and open for the public along with other duties.

Tagged as the 'spiritual' home of 'old soccer', St George Stadium must surely be ranked up there alongside Lambert Park, Garside Park, Arlington Oval, Wentworth Park, ES Marks Field and Hurstville Oval. This is Sydney strictly speaking.

alongside Sydney Olympic as many National League Soccer and **Ampol Cup finals** matches were played, internationals, friendlies and State League finals disputed. Júbilo Iwata from Japan with Italy's 1990 World Cup goalscorer. Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci, and Brazil's very own former captain and coach, Dunga played against St George in 1996. It was a 2-1 win to the J-League side as the Brazilian

scored and set-up the other while Peter Katholos got on the scoresheet for the locals.

Colo-Colo from Chile toured the country in 2002 with a series of friendly matches against the Olyroos and trained at the ground also.

To even mention Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas, Pelé and our very own Craig Johnston also played suggests a degree of credibility and respect.

The project for a 15-000 all seater is not new, it has been around for years with Frank Arok suggested at the time when coaching from the dugout in the early 80s that it needed refurbishment.

A training facility has been suggested, a museum, an administrative headquarters and even a site for a football academy but nothing has



flourished. The media has not forgotten about it from time to time yet there needs to be action.

At the heart of the decaying issue is the development at the nearby Cooks River that is the subject of a Cooks Cove project surround a golf course as well.

For individual purposes and agendas, there is property, golf and even rugby league that stand in the way with the latter in an indirect manner. There have been drastic proposals to demolish the historic ground had it not been for intervention by local and state football officials and the NSW Department of Lands.

With neighbouring Jubilee Oval in Kogarah receiving government funding for its NRL fixtures which only ever include five matches a year - surely Sydney FC cannot turn a blind eye for football's sake, for the

development in the St George, for Johnny Warren's legacy.

If the current local council's plan of management goes ahead, the derelict-looking stadium is to be demolished and replaced with a multi-use sports centre that would be beneficial.

For the past few years with the sta dium the subject of talks, no funds were set aside for the redevelopment by the council, NSW State Government or anybody in the private sector.

Upon approval of a major upgrade, the property development would be a priority which is a win-win for the investor as applications have deadlines that cover the Barton Park area precinct, the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve and a golf course belonging to Kogarah Golf Club.

The question of acessibility comes

There needs a proper entrance coming in at both West Botany Road and General Holmes Drive onto Bestic street. A full-house crowd would simply not cope with the current structural layout.

There is potential however with Sydney Airport is only barely a few kilometres away, which is a significant factor for anybody with a football mind to intervene with investment

proposals and give the stadium its long-awaited facelift to bring back its old spirit.

Access via public transport, to the airport from the stadium would be ideal and enhance a strong cultural connection of stadia with infrastructure.

It is no wonder some famous faces in our game have voiced concern and heartbreak at the current state of the stadium.

There have been cases of a jointventure behind the billion-dollar project to restore the precinct but nothing progressed.

Cutting the expenditure on maintenance of the stadium would mean tearing the stadium down, which is surely the case of iconic stadiums worldwide that are no longer a part of the modern game. The main playing field is being maintained and is perfectly playable as the St George Football Club looks ahead to season 2012 in the NSW Super League and its youth ranks as well.

And as the grandstand remains erect despite its tear awaiting reconstruction or demolition, president Ross Gardner outlined that demolishing the stadium for a small 10 or 15,000 all-seater is "possible, feasible and all the area needs as there are enough stadiums already". "Unless the prospect of a redevelopment is ruled out, they should not be spending money on it," Mr Gardner said

Killing football can be easily done these days with the administrative power, greedy agendas and the toppling monopoly to control the game below or inferior to the other codes. A clear strategy is to wipe out, buy out, demolish or abandon stadiums with a history, with a legacy, a past however the glory relies on the hands of the football community, in the hands of football purists, fans regardless whether they are from the old National Soccer League, from the current A-League or even world football fans alike, to come together The only way the game is going to continue to grow and prosper into the right direction in Australia is via its people, with the right frame of

Institutions remain, it is a simple and clear fact in the economy of football. Clubs are institutions in this case that are the base, the core structure right from the grassroots to the top, elite sector of the pyramid and they are formed and presented by its people et al the players, coaching staff, adminstration and most importantly, the fans.







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Erika (left) left disappointed after Santos club president Luis Álvaro Ribeiro announced the closure of

its women's and futsal teams due to lack of sponsorship and the high cost to keep Neymar in its club



MAY THE (ROUND) BALL ROLL AGAIN IN 2012



Francis Fields

A lot of transfer action and news is happening right across the Latin American continent. Before heading into it all, there are names, rumours and clubs all to be mentioned but 2012 is a year that should be embraced with a lot of excitement and of course, with a warm hug because there will be a lot of football to watch, learn, talk, criticise, analyse and read about.

There are players returning from Europe, from the oil-rich Middle East and players from big South American clubs migrating to the one country that has the right to call our beautiful game, "soccer", the MLS in the United States.

Others making their long-time dream break to clubs throughout Europe or making the switch to Mexico as well. A number of players have also decided that 2012 is a year to switch from one giant club to its arch-rival. Not a very smart thing to do however, when there is a first eleven spot up for grabs and some more money offered on the table, the chance and the offer surely is hard to refuse.

Unfortunately, there are news this opening week of January that encompass a different calibre albeit in the middle of summer.

The beaches are full of lovely women, parties, hotels, poolside resorts, events, but of course there is football too. Pre-season calendars are well onto the thick of it, with arduous fitness tests and reshuffling for the new seasons.

However, looking back to the year that was, the highlight for the coaching ranks must surely go to Jorge Sampaoli. A work-a-holic Argentinian who has even lost his direct family for his direct sacrifice to his profession and had tried his luck with clubs in Peru, Chile and Ecuador before landing at club giant Universidad de Chile with continental club success

Here is an extract of his latest interview, the last for 2011:

"At a time to reflect, in between holidays and where everything can be seen with more tranquility, taking three steps back and looking at the year that was, the successes achieved, coach Sampaoli opened up with newspaper La Tercera giving his input on his own players and comparing them once again with those at Barcelona, teammates of Chilean forward Alexis Sánchez.

Who is the best team that has played football across your lifetime?

"The best has been Bacelona, year 2010".

How close is your "la U" side of reaching the playing level of that side?

"La U" had a superb 2011, some were even better than the current Barcelona", with firm convictions by the Argentinian.

With regards to your tactical formula, your formation, your out-



Brazilain legend Ronaldo in hospital after contracting Dengue Fever.

look to the game and similarities to Marcelo Bielsa, do you agree with such comparison?

"No, I don't agree with them. The system we utilise at "La U" is one of adaptation, we adapt to our opposition on the pitch always making sure we have an extra player in attack and adaptation to the rival in order to defend as well. To attack, you need six available players".

You have also admitted to already missing the departure of Eduardo Vargas, by claiming yourself as "another widow"?

Look, Eduardo Vargas worked very hard. Coming from the reserves, the youth system, being loaned to smaller clubs to make the break has all paid off because you need the right attitude. It is hard to replace a player like him and he will adapt to the Serie A in Italy. Hopefully, we can find and develop the chance of nurturing another Eduardo".

Finally, Sampaoli spoke of what he is looking forward to for the

"All I have in my head these days is taking charge of La U", to try and continue this ambitious project that can permit the club emblem to be displayed and be respected at all levels".

Use of the words "sudaca" and "negro"

South American football colleague Tim Vickery, who happens to have one of a list of enviable jobs being an Englishman and be based in Rio de Janeiro, wrote a piece in his blog during the week clarifying a bit of linguistics and football history, culture.

With the highlight of Universidad de Chile's romping success - whom emphatically beating Cobreloa 3-0 in their last match of the Chilean Clausura season last week, the wrong reasons for which Luis Suárez hit the headlines with an eight-game ban from the English FA disciplinary panel were thankfully played down straight back to earth.

His language used in the face of Manchester United's Patrice Evra is totally unacceptable. What also is unacceptable is the hype, the backlash towards the Uruguayan and the controversy of it all.

From South America, the use of the word "negro" aligns with different connotations and tones. For a start, yes it can be used for slander and racial purposes which should be brought to line, to justice.

However the different dynamic in

the Americas goes back as Tim Vickery pointed out, to the the black presence has been present for centuries as a legacy of slavery. This takes the story much further back, but does not necessarily make it easier. The effects of slavery are difficult to throw off.

In Brazil, for example it is still has huge problem in football, in society. In Uruguay, in contrast, has a much better record. Racial and human rights policies were enlightened in the early 20th century and the notion of social inclusion made a big difference, including on the football field with Uruguayan footballers of African roots.

One of the reasons for Uruguay's early prominence on the pitch was that it was quick to draw on talent from all backgrounds. The game began as an elite pursuit in South America, but in Uruguay there were fewer barriers to entry.

Right from the start of international competition blacks and poor whites were representing the country, something that took longer to happen in Brazil. This means that referring to someone as 'black' in Uruguay is not touching an open wound. The word and its derivatives are by no means necessarily pejorative.

Luis Suárez did have the intention to insult and provoke Patrice Evra and the Frenchman hit back with "sudaca". One can ask, how did the Manchester United defender know of the word? Where did he learn his Spanish from?

The latter is a term pejoratively used by the Spanish to depreciate South Americans. It is a low-level and despicable offensive word synonymous to a second-class citizen, a migrant, somebody hailing from the "Third World".

The historical facts must be cleared up however as ignorance in the world game along with the big bucks that make it go round at the elite level is the threat that can worsen or improve relations between players, officials, coaches and fans from the diverse cultural backgrounds.

Football agent murdered in Montevideo

A sad and suspicious event earlier in the week was the murder of Washington Risotto, a registered Uruguayan football agent who was found shot dead in downtown Mon-

The agent had alleged links to notorious underworld activities while the current negotiation deal for Nacional goalkeeper Rodrigo Muñoz to Paraguayan club Libertad has been put

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on hold. It is likely the goalkeeper will remain with the Uruguayan champions. "Your hour has come", he was told

as unknown snipers showed up with a 9mm handgun and shot Risotto eight times.

A witness said that a Rolex watch was found along with more than US\$ 20,000 which strongly supports the police report and hypothesis that his murder was plotted as a result of dirty deals with certain clubs - some figuring in the prestigious Copa Libertadores and his tense relation with his former colleague Gerardo Arias, the current agent of the Nacional goalkeeper.

The 39-year old representative had Nacional youth players Maximiliano Calzada, Facundo Píriz, Ajax of Amsterdam midfielder Nicolás Lodeiro and forward Santiago "Morro' García in his books.

Our own Aussie-Uruguayan Richard Porta

The Uruguayan forward has been released from UAE club Al Wasl after confirming the signing of Iranian forward Mohammad Reza Khalatbari. The arrival of the Persian goalscorer means he will be occupy the AFC foreign-based player slot. This of course due to Richard Porta birth in Sydney hence his Australian dual nationality and passport.

Al Wasl confirmed on its Twitter account that both Richard Porta and Chilean creative midfielder Edson Puch will leave.

For Richard Porta, it was a mere two months at the UAE club since his inception to coach Diego Maradona's team roster in mid-October last year.

The former Nacional forward was not able to shine on the pitch scoring one goal in seven matches. Coach Maradona will headline Uruguayan compatriot in former Peñarol and Universidad de Chile forward Juan Manuel Olivera up front in a bid to restructure the squad ahead of its new season and leaving behind its poor results of late.

Santos to close its doors in the futsal and female ranks

Brazilian giant and current Copa Libertadores winners Santos will shut its operations of its successful professional teams in futsal and in women's football according to reports this week.

The reported lack of funds and sponsorship raises concern soon after the million-dollar contract ex-

Santos reported a loss in its finances to maintain its futsal and women's squads who capped off a fine 2011 season although not enough in monetary earnings as club president Luis Álvaro de Oliveira Ribeiro announced.

"In futsal, we had the right vision for the club but the costs were too high and Santos cannot afford to run the luxury of operation in other areas where it is unsustainable", affirmed

"No investment means things get complicated". Santos' futsal club, based in the biggest port of the city of Sao Paulo, played three finals in the last three years and won two of

In their squad was arguably the most famous futsal player in the world, Falcao.

A similar case was confirmed with the women's squads as Santos became the Brazilian side to win the 2011 Regional Games, several provincial Brazilian tournaments and the competitive Paulista state championship at the same time, reaching the semi-finals of the Women's Copa Libertadores de América.

Ribeiro confirmed that the cost of nearly \$US1 million annually was too much to sustain without a major sponsor.

"Television has no interest in broadcasting futsal or women's football, and there is no sponsorship interest as well", in reference to the 'Sirens of the Vila' - the fond nickname attached to Santos' womens team at the Vila Belmiro stadium.

It is also disappointing for the female players who will have to look elsewhere for season 2012.

Goalscorer Erika was evidently emotional at the closure of the club's female operations.

"I would like to continue here at this club but unfortunately it is all over", said Erika clearly worried about her fellow seven teammates who conform the Brazilian women's national football team who are preparing for the London Olympic Games later in the year.

Rumours, transfers and more ru-

Firstly, football great Ronaldo has been contracted with Dengue fever. The retired great claimed of fever, headache and joint pain as symptoms and announced on his Twitter account.

"I am convalescing. I was discharged last night. Now I have to rest to recover quickly," wrote the

cepted an invitation to become head of the 2014 World Cup organising committee.

He spent his year-end holidays in his house in the north-eastern state of Bahía.

"Damned mosquito", he chuckled.

TRANSFERS

Chilean midfielder Milovan Mirosevic of Universidad Católica has been confirmed the new signing of Columbus Crew in the MLS. Peñarol has signed the return of midfielder Luis Aquiar back from Sporting Lisbon in Portugal and are trying to lure back winger Fabián Estoyanoff, currently at Greek Super League club Panionios.

Colo-Colo meanwhile offloaded Uruquayan World Cup defender Andrés Scotti and has returned to his beloved Nacional while goalkeeper Juan Castillo and his future remains unknown. Another player leaving Greece is Chilean international defender Pablo Contreras who spoke of the financial cripple had an influence in his decision, has returned to his breeding ground club from PAOK Salonika.

Boca Juniors have been trying endlessly to bring a replacement for forward Lucas Viatri who tore his ligaments last season. The first-choice option has been Monterrey's Chilean forward Humberto Suazo although citing poor health of his mother, the Chilean returned to Mexico only to be fined and suspended back to the club's youth team upon arrival at the Mexican city's international airport.

Brazilian giants Vasco da Gama and Fluminense are behind the signature of Universidad de Chile captain and defender José Rojas. His teammate and fellow defender, international Marco González has been chased with interest at struggling Argentinian club Newell's Old Boys for nearly US\$1million. Midfielder Marcelo Díaz, a recently capped long-distance specialist is also being tempted at Newell's.

The television soapie must go to defender Roberto Cereceda who has switched from Universidad Católica to archrival Universidad de Chile for season 2012. The flanker and flamboyant left-footed defender had arrived last year from giants Colo Colo and was banned subsequently for drinking herbal tea in Bolivia during a Copa Sudamericana international cup tie with left him out of the game for nearly a year. His move has angered fans and sparked wide debate about club pride versus the pay packet.

34-year old legend who last year actension of its forward youngster

Early business won't deter usual last minute madness

LONDON CALLING

With Sam Collins in the UK



It's one of the highlights of the avid football fan's calendar year, though, they probably wouldn't admit this.Deadline day.

The day in which thousands up and down England feel inclined to rush to a TV set or a laptop, or any sort of media device for that matter, and watch the intensifying last few hours of transfer madness. The thought of trying to catch a glimpse of a new signing for the club, even when no transfer window business is expected, persuades many fans to get their shoes on, and rush down to the training ground.

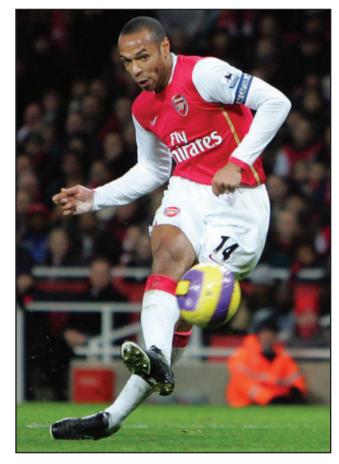
Social network sites such, particularly Twitter, have only increased the fanaticism that goes on, on the final day of January. The dangerously addictive website is rife with rumours, some which sound quite absurd upon first glance, but on this day, everyone dreams. Constant refreshing of your club's official website page, in hope of a new signing. Of course it wouldn't be the same without the delirious sight of Sky Sports News. Fourteen years old this year, the TV giants practically control deadline day, sending out various TV reporters across the country despite the chilling temperatures. A Sky reporter standing outside the Etihad or the Emirates, with forty teenagers bouncing across them, is something digital viewers have become accustomed to. But regardless of the chaos it causes iust can't leave alone.

This January could, just could, be different. Football finance experts Deloitte have predicted Premier League spending this month may be less than half the colossal £225m total spent this time last year - a league record. It was a month which saw the likes of Fernando Torres and Andy Carroll move clubs, deals which cost £85m between them for Chelsea and Liverpool.

Deloitte though are adamant such fees won't be repeated in the next four weeks. Dan Jones, a partner of the UK company said "We would be surprised, but have been in the past of course, if gross spending was more than 2011 given that was a record year by some margin. The most likely scenario is somewhere between £100m and £140m".

Early business is expected this January. Chelsea and Bolton Wanderers have already agreed a fee for defender Gary Cahill to switch the Reebok Stadium for Stamford Bridge (though the England defender's personal terms are delaying a fluid transfer), whilst Fulham striker Andy Johnson should move north to

Major League Soccer stars flying across the Atlantic to light up the Premier League for two months is becoming increasingly common viewing. Landon Donovan has joined Everton until March, whilst Thierry Henry and Robbie Keane are expected to follow suit with Arsenal and Aston Villa respectively. Donovan had an excellent



Thierry Henry could be back in Arsenal colours.

ago, whilst Henry and Keane have given the league's best defences torrid times during their permanent careers here, more so the former. Another mooted deal this January includes Tottenham's "desperate", in the words of ESPN's sources. attempt to sign Christopher Samba from Blackburn - a transfer which would surely cost £10m+. But the highest fees this month could well be those of foreign imports. Inter Milan playmaker Wesley Sneijder

spell at Goodison Park two years

perstar with a move to Old Trafford Any possible deal would involve

has endured a frustrating campaign

thus far, beleaguered by injury, and

the rumours linking the Dutch su-

Manchester United paying the best part of £40m, in addition to the former Real Madrid man's £200k a week wages.

But maybe this is the "special" player Sir Alex Ferguson has been mentioning in the past few weeks. Arsenal's surreal full-back crisis could see them loan Aly Cissokho from Lyon, but it's the potential permanent business which will get gooner's excited.

The thought of Lukas Podolski, the 95-times capped German international, arriving in North London would mirror the thrill that gunners fans experienced when Andrey Arshavin turned up in 2009 - a thrill that only lasted 5 months or so, given the Russia captain's fall from

What of Liverpool? Without the much-maligned Luis Suarez banned for 8 games for racist abuse - Kenny Dalglish's side look rather toothless up top. Luuk de Jong, a consistent goalscorer at Twente could arrive at Anfield, another player who wouldn't come cheaply.

And of course, Manchester City. The club with virtually no financial limits. Roberto Mancini will lose the Toure brothers to the African cup of Nations, leaving holes in the City squad, holes that could be filled by Daniele De Rossi, the Roma captain, and Raul Albiol, the Real Madrid centre-back, perhaps?

But any early or mid-January business won't deter the usual

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last minute madness. Just thinking about the phrases 'done deal' or 'in talks', brings back memories of previous transfer windows. Despite predictions of a quieter window various Premier League clubs have money to burn, so as ever, expect the unexpected, prepare yourself for the best and brace yourself for

Oh...and make sure you book January 31st off work and get ready for excitation. In the words of Sky Sports News' famous deadline day anchorman Jim White: "Some people don't like deadline day. Unlike us, some people don't want excitement in their lives".

nationwide search for new talent for their Show Teams in 2012, with a series of events aptly named 'Showboat".

for clubs, or the ultimate disappoint-

ment it often ultimately brings for

fans, deadline day is something we

By hosting a series of skill based soccer tournaments they hope to find new 'stars' to earn a contract worth thousands of dollars with Australia's Premiere Football Entertainment Provider, Trick Star, who travel the country and the world entertaining the public.

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providing fun, exciting, entertainment for the general public, you don't have to be into football to enjoy this day. We know there is lots of hidden talent in Australia and we aim to find them and expose them to the world. We will be encouraging players to show off, that's what our games are all about,

With various age groups (sub junior, iunior & adult) and only requiring 3 players to make up a team it is easy to get involved in the day and hopefully end up getting noticed by the Trick Star Scouts. Team Entry is only \$60 and with every team member

registering before Wednesday Janury 11 getting a \$5 McDonalds voucher plus the chance to win prizes from Pele Sports and winners trophies, it is a day not to be missed for the soccer enthusiast. Entries will be available on the day from 9am if places are available.

The Trick Star Football 'Showboat I' is on Sunday January 15 from 9am til 2.30pm at the Firetrack in Mornington Park on the Esplanade.

To enter a team go to the website www.trickstarfootball.com



LA Galaxy's Landon Donovan joins Everton, fresh from a tour of Oz

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United cause fireworks of their own

EPL Wrap



Steven Talevski

Manchester United has slipped to two shock defeats over the New Year's period allowing Manchester City to sit three points on top of the Premier League.

Manchester United were shocked by relegation threatened Blackburn at Old Trafford going down 3-2 on New Year's Eve before Newcastle United piled on the misery as Manchester United opened their 2012 account with a three nil loss at the Sports Direct Arena.

Manchester City could not fully capitalise on Manchester United's two slip ups as they went down one nil to Sunderland at the Stadium of Light as South Korean Ji Dong-won scored the only goal of the game with the last kick of the ball to hand Sunderland the one nil victory.

However, just two days later, Manchester City looked to be back to their normal selves as they comfortably defeated Liverpool three nil with goals from Sergio Aguero, Yaya Toure and James Milner to ensure Manchester City remain on top of the table.

Manchester United's slip up allows Tottenham to be just three points behind the reigning champions with a game in hand.

Tottenham have moved to 42 points after a one all draw away to Swansea City before defeating West Bromwich Albion at White Hart Lane courtesy of a 63rd minute Jermaine Defoe strike. With Tottenham edging closer to the top of the table, Manager Harry Redknapp has said 'nothing is impossible' but is unsure whether he has a title winning team.

"I don't know about a title winning team but we are there and thereabouts. We have to keep believing



Manchester United's title challenge suffers another blow after they are beaten 3-0 by Newcastle at the Sports Direct Arena.

and keep going. You never know, nothing is impossible," Redknapp said.
"It's been a great first half of the sea-

"It's been a great first half of the season. Considering we lost the first two games to have the points we have is great.

"We are in there and have a lot to look forward to in the second half of the season."

Tottenham are now five points in front of Chelsea who were outplayed by an inconsistent Aston Villa side 3-1 at Stamford Bridge despite Didier Drogba opening the scoring with a penalty in the 23rd minute.

Chelsea almost slipped up three days later as Frank Lampard taped the ball into the back of the net in the 89th minute as Chelsea defeated struggling Wolverhampton 2-1.

Blackburn's shock victory at Old Trafford was followed up by a disappointing 2-1 loss at home against Stoke City who took a first half two nil lead courtesy of two goals from the experienced Peter Crouch.

The loss left Blackburn back on the bottom of the Premier League table after Bolton earned a point against Wolverhampton with a one all draw before coming from behind to defeat Everton 2-1 at Goodison Park.

Bolton now move up to 18th spot leaving Wigan one spot below as they could only secure a well-deserved point against Stoke City at the Britannia Stadium thanks to a 87th minute Ben Watson penalty before they were belted by an inform Sunderland side 4-1.

Sunderland, who were the only team to pick up the maximum six points over the New Year's period, were the biggest movers as they moved five places to tenth.

Meanwhile, Arsenal remained in fifth place as they defeated Queens Park Rangers before being shocked by London rivals Fulham 2-1, with goals from Steve Sidwell in the 85th minute and Bobby Zamora in the 92nd minute cancelling out Laurent Koscielny's first half header.

Two points below Arsenal are Liverpool who picked up three points against Newcastle United with a double from Craig Bellamy and a goal from Steven Gerrard earning them a 3-1 victory before suffering a three nil loss to Manchester City.

Off the field Liverpool accepted the eight match ban handed to Luis Suarez for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra.

The ban took effect as of Liverpool clash against Manchester City and will see the star striker miss clashes against high flyers Tottenham and Manchester United.

In a club statement Liverpool said, "It is time to put the Luis Suarez matter to rest and for all of us, going forward, to work together to stamp out racism in every form both inside and outside the sport."

"It is for this reason that we will not appeal the eight-game suspension of Luis Suarez."

Meanwhile in other clashes over the New Year's period Fulham held Norwich City one all before Norwich City defeated Queens Park Rangers 2-1, Everton defeated West Bromwich Albion one nil, and Swansea City defeated Aston Villa two nil.

The Premier League will go on a week hiatus due to the third round of the FA Cup which is highlighted by the Manchester Derby.

The Premier League will resume next Thursday morning, Australian time, where Tottenham host Everton at White Hart Lane in a catch up fixture.

Sneijder linked with Inter exit

nter Milan appear to be ready to sell star player Wesley Sneijder in the January transfer window if a big-money offer comes along.

La Gazzetta dello Sport reports that the Serie A club's sporting director Marco Branca is set to travel to England in the upcoming days in order to open talks with English Premier League outfit Manchester United about a potential transfer.

The Netherlands midfielder, 27, appeared to be close to joining United prior to the 2011/12 season, but the deal eventually fell through.

United, however, are believed to still be keen on Sneijder, with manager Sir

Alex Ferguson is looking to add more creativity to his midfield and Inter are ready to open talks with the Premier League champions.

League champions.
It remains to be seen if United are willing to spend big at the mid-way stage of the season, and Sneijder will

not be available on the cheap.
Additionally, the former Ajax and
Real Madrid star's wage demands
could prove to be a problem for the
Old Trafford side.

Sneijder has a contract with Inter until June 2015, and has scored twice in 11 appearances in all competitions for Inter this campaign.

PSG give up on Beckham

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al Khelaifi has revealed the prospective deal to bring David Beckham to the French capital is off.

The former England captain is said to have opted to stay in Los Angeles with LA Galaxy despite being out of contract with the MLS side.

It was expected Beckham would pursue a move back to Europe to help his aspirations of representing Great Britain at the 2012 Olympics in London.

But a deal with cashed-up PSG has fallen through, with Al Khelaifi saying:

"David Beckham is in Los Angeles and will stay there. He will not come, it's clear."

Rumours of Beckham's potential destination have been rife, with reports suggesting the Galaxy's MLS Cup final win against Houston Dynamo was almost certain to be his final game for the club.

PSG director, and former AC Milan and Inter manager Leonardo, added: "We can say that it's over. Beckham would have come, but his family made the difference. He has four children, it would have been difficult for him to leave for a new adventure."



during last month's LA Galaxy tour of Australia.

Copa del Rey wrap: Barca rout Osasuna

Barcelona romped to a 4-0 win over Osasuna in the first leg of their fifth round Copa del Rey clash.

Cesc Fabregas and secondhalf substitute Lionel Messi scored twice to take a firm grip on the cup-tie, with the second leg on January 12.

Fabregas scored his brace in the 14th and 18th minutes before Messi, who was on the bench with the flu, scoring in the 73rd and 90th minutes

Messi was introduced on the hour mark as coach Pep Guardiola looked to take a comfortable lead to Osasuna's formidable Reyno de Navarra

It only took Messi 13 minutes to get on the scoresheet however, as he rose highest in a crowded penalty area to emphatically head home Xavi's cross.

The Argentine completed the rout with a curling finish from the edge of the area after Xavi had again unlocked the Osasuna defence with a well-weighted through ball.

Sociedad beat Mallorca 2-0 with Mikel Aranburu scoring after 17 minutes and Imanol Agirretxe adding the second in the 55th minute.

Wales to face Costa Rica in Speed tribute

Wales will face Costa Rica in February in a tribute game in memory of former manager and player Gary Speed.

Costa Rica were the opponents when Speed made his debut for Wales back in 1990, and have been chosen as the opposition for a memorial match that will take place next month.

The clash has been scheduled for February 29, with 10 percent of the profits from the game going to charity.

A statement from the Welsh FA reads: "This

will be an opportunity to celebrate the life and achievements of a great servant to Welsh football, both as a player and as a manager."

The football world was shocked by the death of the former Leeds and Newcastle United midfielder last year at the age of 42, with Speed masterminding a change in fortunes of the Welsh national side as they looked to continue their good 2011 form into qualifying for the 2014 World Cup.

Brazil legend Ronaldo struck down by Dengue fever

Former Brazil international Ronaldo has revealed that he has contracted Dengue fever.

The now-retired 35-year-old made the announcement after posting a picture of himself on Twitter receiving treatment for

the infectious disease.
"Good morning to you. I have started the year with dengue," wrote Ronaldo, who had been celebrating the new year in Trancoso,

"Thank you for caring. I'm in recovery."
"I was released (on) Tuesday night. Now for treatment and rest and to get well soon!!!"
Dengue is transmitted by several species of mosquito and can, in a small proportion of cases, develop into a life-threatening condition. Ronaldo, the all-time leading scorer in World Cup history with 15 goals, called time on his illustrious playing career last year after struggling for a long time with weight problems and the effects of a succession of injuries.

Ibrahimovic reveals coaching ambitions

AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has admitted that he is thinking about a coaching position after he finishes his playing career.

The Sweden international previously stated that he would not return to the game after hanging up his boots, but is now having second thoughts as he aims to follow in the footsteps of compatriot Henrik Larsson, who is the manager of Swedish side Landskrona BolS.

"I have previously said that a coaching career wouldn't be for me, but at the moment it's very likely to happen after my career," Ibrahimovic told Swedish newspaper Sportbladet.

newspaper sportoladet.
"I remember that Henke Larsson also said that he didn't want to become a coach, and look at him now. You never know what happens in football."

"I want to continue playing for two to three more years and then we will see what happens in the future."

The 30-year-old attacker has a contract with Milan until the summer of 2015.

Tevez wouldn't cause problems, says

AC Milan defender Gianluca Zambrotta does not believe Manchester City attacker Carlos Tevez would cause trouble at the San Siro.

Milan are keen sign the controversial forward on a six-month loan deal after the Argentine sensationally fell out with manager Roberto Mancini after refusing to come on as a substitute in a Champions League match against Bayern Munich.

But Zambrotta believes Tevez would ntegrate without a problem if the deal goes through, just like Antonio Cassano previously did.

"Tevez could disrupt the harmony in the dressing room? They said the same when Cassano arrived at the club and they also said (Zlatan) Ibrahimovic could cause problems," Zambrotta told La Stampa.

problems," Zambrotta told La Stampa.
"However, they both integrated without noteworthy problems. If Tevez arrives at the club, the same thing will happen."

It is questionable whether Milan will succeed in their attempts to lure Tevez to San Siro, with Manchester City said to be insistent on selling the striker permanently, rather the loan deal sought by the Italians.

Maradona's Al Wasl given home ban

Al Wasl and their coach Diego Maradona are in trouble again.

The UAE Football Association have banned Al Wasl from playing at home for their next two matches after fans let off flares in the 2-2 derby against Al Nasr. The ban comes shortly after Maradona was fined for calling Al Ain coach Cosmin

Olaroiu 'quite rude'.

It came after Olaroiu criticised Maradona in a heated post-match conference last month.

Al Wasl's next two scheduled home games are both against Dubai - one game is in the league and the other in the cup.

They will now be played at a neutral venue - something that Maradona believes puts his side at a big disadvantage.

"Both these decisions are unfair," the Argentinian legend said.

"Whether it's monetary penalties that have been given or that we are being ordered to play away from home. It's unfair for the players, it's unfair for the coaching staff."

"Playing at home makes a big difference. There are six points up for grabs, and they could be very important for us, so we're going to have to see what happens."

"As far as the players and coaching staff are concerned, we can always talk to the fans and maybe change things."

"I don't see this happening to any other teams, like Al-Jazira or Al-Ahli. Ever since I got here the only club to be penalised is Al-Wasl."

Maradona has had a tough time at Al Wasl of late - the side are without a win in their last five outings.

McClaren set to return as Twente

Former England boss Steve Mc-Claren will replace Co Adriaanse as head coach of Eredivisie side FC Twente, according to reports.

The 64-year-old Adriaanse was named Twente coach at the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has guided the Enschede side to third place in the Eredivisie table, the round of 32 in the Europa League, as well as winning the Johan Cruyff Shield.

However, the flamboyant coach has had a troublesome relationship with Twente president Joop Munsterman ever since the start of his spell, and the club have now reportedly decided to let go of Adriaanse.

It is believed that Twente have reached an agreement with former head coach McClaren to replace Adriaanse until the end of the season. McClaren previously led Twente in 2009-10 and guided the club to the only Eredivisie title in their history. Twente stressed on Monday that no decision has been made about the

decision has been made about the future of Adriaanse, but they have yet to comment on the latest reports about the coach's departure.

Casillas confident of Kaka stay

Real Madrid goalkeeper lker Casillas is confident Kaka will not leave the La Liga leaders during the January transfer window.

The Brazil international has been struggling to secure regular starts under coach Jose Mourinho and has been linked with a move away from the Santiago Bernabeu, with cashed-up Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain said to be leading the chase for his signature.

signature.

But Real captain Casillas has dismissed reports that the former AC Milan attacker is heading for the exit door.

"Kaka has told me that he is not leaving, he is going to stay here with us," Casillas revealed on his official Facebook page under a photo of the duo and reserve goalkeeper Tomas Mejias.

Kaka joined Real from Milan before the 2009/10 campaign for a then-world record fee of

56 million pounds, and has a contract at the club until June 2015.

After returning from long-term injury, the 2007 Ballon d'Or winner has made 20 appearances for Real in all competitions this campaign, scoring four goals.





Luca **Cetta**

Ready to roll again

The winter break is over and Serie A is set to commence once more this weekend. Milan and Juve are locked at the top with Udinese and Lazio close behind. Inter, Napoli and Roma are looking to put themselves in the hunt. t will be a fascinating second half of the season...

Before looking ahead at the fixtures, here are some of the headlines because after all it is January and the transfer window is open.

Juventus have sealed a €0.5m loan move for Marco Borriello. The ex-Roma striker was on the outer under Luis Enrique and goes to Turin with an option to make the deal permanent at the end of the season for €8m. The Bianconeri are also close to Sevilla defender Martin Caceres. The Uruguayan was on loan at Juve during 2009/10 but was not retained. He would add depth to the defence and arrive n the same fashion as Borriello

Meanwhile. Felipe Melo has ruled out returning to Turin. The midfielder is on loan at Galatasaray and hopes the Turkish side makes the move permanent at the end of the season.

Alberto Gilardino has completed his move from Fiorentina to Genoa for €8m. Somewhat a sideway step for the 29year-old, Gilardino will look to do what he always does in the provinces: score goals. Fiorentina boss Delio Rossi noted the player wanted to make a move away from Florence

Milan Coach Massimiliano Allegri has denied there is a rift with Alexandre Pato,



Serie A action returns to action this weekend after the temporary recess of the winter break

even if the player hinted at such last week. Amid the move of Carlo Ancelotti to Paris St-Germain there have been rumours the big spending French club may be after the Brazilian. The Rossoneri are still chasing Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez, or failing that, Catania's Maxi Lopez

Marco Parolo has been linked with a number of Serie A clubs, even if Cesena wants to hold on to their star midfielder. The player has interest from Genoa. Fiorentina, Lazio, Udinese and Cagliari.

Roma are hoping Daniele De Rossi agrees to a new deal after dragged-out negotiations. The two parties have been in talks since June but with De Rossi wanting over €6m a year, there is yet to be an agreement. The club wants an answer by the end of January. While on that front, Napoli President Aurelio De Laurentiis announced on Tuesday Christian Maggio had renewed his deal at the club until 2015.

Away from the transfer market and evidence continues to emerge regarding the betting scandal. Indications point to the possibility Serie A clubs may have been involved. Atalanta, or at least captain Cristiano Doni (already serving a three year ban) have been implicated, even if the player reportedly told police he was doing it out of love for Atalanta and hoping they could reach their objectives. Lazio are another to have been mentioned and the clubs may face a sanction of between six and eight points. Atalanta of course have already been handed a six point penalty at the start of the season. Lecce, Genoa, Novara and Chievo were also mentioned.

A number of players have been named in the investigation, with the evidence of Carlo Gervasoni, a player involved, said to be crucial. Lazio's Stefano Mauri and ex-Genoa (now Padova) player Omar Milanetto are alleged to be illegally involved with a Lazio vs. Genoa match. Others include Luciano and Sergio Pellissier (both Chievo), Max Benassi, Daniele Corvia (both Lecce). Cesare Rickler and Marco Di Vaio (both Bologna, the latter mentioned but never approached), while five Bari players were named and Stefano Ferrario of Lecce refused money. We await more details on this seemingly never-ending story.

This weekend, the two giants at the top are on the road. Milan makes the short journey to Bergamo to face Atalanta, a dangerous side at home. Serie A leading goalscorer German Denis will be a threat to the champions, who will be looking to continue their recent form. Robinho is expected to partner Zlatan Ibrahimovic ahead of the disappointing Pato.

Juventus are away at Lecce. Juve will be wary of their post-winter slips in the past two seasons which helped lead to seventh placed finishes. Antonio Conte is looking for the best possible restart against the team who has not yet won at home. Mirko Vucinic is set to return from injury.

Rejuvenated Inter starts 2012 at home against Parma. A fine run of results has the Nerazzurri right back in Champions League contention, while Giampaolo Pazzini and Diego Milito are beginning to find the net again after a dry spell. Wesley Sneijder is still an absentee. while the visitors will be without the suspended Alessandro Lucarelli.

Lazio has the best away record in Serie A and will be expected to overcome Siena, who have not tasted victory since late October. Udinese, still unbeaten at home, will also look to keep up the pressure on the leaders as they host Cesena. The visitors have a host of injury concerns, including Jorge Martinez and Giuseppe Colucci, who aim to prove their fitness.

Bortolo Mutti faces a test in his first home clash as Palermo tactician when Napoli visits. Exciting talent and new signing Eduardo Vargas will not feature for the Azzurri just yet. Palermo President Maurizio Zamparini has offered his prediction - a 1-0 Palermo win with Fabrizio Miccoli scoring in the 80th minute.

Roma welcomes Chievo to the Stadio Olimpico hoping to kick-start a potentially huge year on the right path, while Novara is looking to build on an encouraging end to 2011 at home against Fiorentina. Bologna entertains Catania and finally Pasquale Marino is on the Genoa bench for the first time when his side travels to



Pepe **Lopez**

Real Impressive Fightback

Another Spanish Copa Del Rey El Clasico encounter between Real Madrid and Barcelona remains on the cards later this month, after Real Madrid scored an impressive come from behind 3-2 win against Malaga in the Round of 16 1st Leg at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid.

Malaga had threatened to spoil the party after going into halftime 2-0 up away from home, after early goals from Sanchez and Demichelis. Despite the loss, Malaga have much to play for in the return leg at their home ground next week, having scored 2 away goals, and will just need to win 1-0 or 2-1 to advance to the Spanish Cup Quarter Finals. It was bitter-sweet return to the Santiago Bernabeu for Malaga Coach Manuel Pelligrini, who was the previous coach of Real Madrid, whose departure from Madrid was triggered by an embarrassing Spanish Cup loss to lower division Spanish Club Alcoron two years ago.

Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Kaka did his future in the Spanish capital no favors, as his Coach Jose Mourinho was disgusted with his team's first half performance: "I told my players at halftime that if I could make 11 substitutions, I would change the entire team," Mourinho stated in the after match press conference.

"I could only make three, but I would have changed all 11 players. I changed three players so that the team could do different things, I thought about doing it before the break, but that is not something that I like." Kaka, Arbeloa and Callejon were the substitutes, and Kaka who has been linked with a transfer away from Madrid to many clubs, is all but certain to be put up for sale during current transfer window. It is understood that Paris St Germain have offered Real 24 Million Euro for the signature of the Brazilian play maker.

Mourinho's changes to the team had an immediate impact, but the first half left Mourinho with a bad taste in the

"The pace of the match changed and so did the players' focus. If we could do it in the second half, why did they not do it in the first one?

We always try to return (from holidays) with enough time to go before the first match, but there are people who perceive these holidays as the time to rest, while others travel and do not stop eating and drinking and return a bit different.'

Real Madrid substitutes Khadira and Benzema got on the score sheet as did starter Higuain in the final 20 minutes of the match.

Meanwhile, UEFA President Michel Platini confirmed his preference for the European game, as opposed to the current trend of Foreign Owned English Clubs in the Premier League, with this quote in a European newspaper; "l love the management structure of Real Madrid and Barcelona because the members remain responsible for the club and their decisions. Both preserve their identity and the popularity of football lies precisely in the fact that there are such strong ties with the fans."



Best of 2011

The Demise of Serbian football

Vidic. Ivanovic. Kolarov. Stankovic. Subotic, Krasic – surely a team that consists of these players should qualify or at least get to the play-off stages from a group that includes the likes of Slovenia, Northern Ireland, Estonia and the Faroe Islands. A point against the Italians should be good enough for a play off spot, wins against minnows Estonia and at least three points against Slovenia, surely??

Serbia only took a point from Slovenia, Estonia and Italy. No European Championships for a side that should with no problem being amongst the 16 best nations on the continent.

Having qualified for the World Cup in South Africa - topping their Qualification Group ahead of France – and drawn in the Finals with Germany, Ghana and Australia the chances were very good for Serbia to reach the knock out stages. But once more Serbia failed on the big stage and despite beating the Germans they failed to get any points against Ghana and Australia.

The failure in South Africa was the turning point for the failure in the Euro 2012 Qualifiers. A loss to Estonia and only a draw against Slovenia in Belgrade signalled the end to Radomir Antic's career as Serbian Manager and former U/21 coach Vladimir Petrovic was brought in to get things back on track. But the sacking of Antic was going to haunt the side for the remainder of the qualifiers.

Antic not just built a side that can play football but also an environment and atmosphere that was lacking in previous squads, this was all polluted by the Serbian FA President Tomislav Karadzic who, before the World Cup, hailed Antic as the best thing in Serbian football – too bad Karadzic was the worse.

Karadzic is first and foremost not fit to be President of the FA nor any football organisation but he is however very good in the fields of organised crime and he is the 'Godfather' of corruption in Serbian football.

Most of the clubs in Serbia are against his reign of destruction in Serbian football because of the corruption and match fixing that has plagued the league and national side. The Serbian cup Final last year is the best possible example of his work and the sacking of Antic was another signal of who is the boss the big boss in Serbian football.

Nantes legend Ivan Curkovic is another figure that has polluted football in Serbia since the end of his playing days. He was even the President of the Olympic Committee and the reason why Partizan fans boycotted a lot of matches during his tenure as club President - another role in which he failed - but somehow his resume is good enough to be Vice-President of the Serbian FA.

Back to the Qualifying campaign, with Petrovic's lads needing at least a win against either Italy or Slovenia to confirm a play-off spot they failed in doing that too. A draw at home and a shocking performance in Maribor was the nail in the coffin for Ser-



Dejan Stankovic and Milos Krasic in action for Serbia against Ghana

bian football.

Players that would die for Serbia on the field have not once been given a chance to wear the jersey while out of form and players lacking match fitness are still used no matter what. This is never the situation in the big European sides like Germany, Italy, Spain, France, You must be playing regular football and be fully fit to be considered for the national team and that is another reason why Serbia didn't have what it takes to

Krasic is out of form and out of favour at Juventus. Vidic lacks match practice and was in no way ready to play against Barnsley let alone a big match against Slovenia. Miliias is second string at Wolves and he was used as the impact player against the Slovenes while Zigic was out of action for longer than six months and he was called straight back into the squad.

If anyone watches and follows the Champions League and Europa League they will notice a fair number of Serbian players that are key members of their clubs but have not once been given a call up into the national team even though they play week in week out and perform to the standards of what is needed by them.

After every failure in any sport and any position in any field of work there must be big consequences and big reviews. The FA failed, the Manager failed and the players failed so there must be huge changes in all aspects of Serbian football if there is going to be any results. Everything must be taken into account! But don't forget this is

A Few dollars more

The Serbian SuperLiga is the elite football competition in the country of Serbia and boasts 16 of the best teams in the nation, but only two teams are likely to win the league - Red Star and Partizan. The two most successful clubs in Serbian football.

Ahead of each season both sides compete for transfer targets and fight for national team talent and in the end it is the club that offers both the player and club the most money who are most likely to sign him.

It's a rare case that once a footballer leaves Serbia that he returns in the future - especially from the top two clubs - but in recent years players have started returning to Partizan a club they still hold a lot of respect towards but also a club that will offer the wage demands the player is seeking. Saying that Red Star have on many occasions failed to bring back former players or Serbian stars who have spent most of their careers in Europe's top leagues

Before the start of the 2011/12 season there was a lot of talk about Red Star luring two experienced former national team players - Ivica Dragutinovic and Ivan Ergic - back to the club. Both players were available on a free transfer as their contracts with Sevilla and Bursaspor had ended. The two had successful careers in Europe and were now looking for a new challenge as well as a league where they didn't have to play to the level of football they have been used to. So Serbia would have been a good destination.

Both players were close to agreeing deals with the 'Red and Whites' but at the end the excuse was 'I'm not yet ready for a return home even though I would like to or I'm looking at the other offers I have received, but you never know I could make a return

home.' Ergic and Dragutinovic did not sign for Red Star nor did they sign for any club. Ergic apparently had offers in Switzerland and Turkey while Dragutinovic was close to making a big money move to one of the rich Arab nations

Footballers constantly complain about how their lives are not what they are made out to be but at the end of the day 90% of them are all hunting the money, no matter what stage of their careers they are at. Ergic and Dragutinovic would have been great signings for a struggling league like Serbia but they didn't want to play for peanuts or they thought that they're worth more than was being offered.

Partizan have however brought back some big names over the past few seasons. Influential players like Mladen Krstajic, Zvonimir Vukic and Sasa Ilic have helped the club win the last four Serbian League titles and this is the main reason Partizan have dominated the league. A wealth of experience helps youngsters in their development and boosts their confidence which in return gives them room for improvement and a lot of opportunities to learn.

Red Star have failed in doing this, any experienced player can give a club a lot and every player that has played in Europe can share his experiences with young up and coming talents. Most of the smaller leagues were built on the experienced players who in return win you titles and take the pressure off the youngsters who give the club performances they are after. It's also vital for continued fan support, tv rights in order to continue to raise the level of the league. Ergic and Dragutinovic were cases of a Few Dollars More.





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Germany

Friday, 20 January 2012 Borussia M'gladbach v Bayern Munich Saturday, 21 January 2012 Nuremberg v Hertha Berlin SC Freiburg v Augsburg Schalke 04 v VfB Stuttgart TSG Hoffenheim v Hannover 96 Wolfsburg v Cologne FC Kaiserslautern v Werder Bremen Sunday, 22 January 2012 Hamburg v Borussia Dortmund Bayer Leverkusen v Mainz

Saturday, 7 January 2012 Siena v Lazio Inter Milan v Parma Sunday, 8 January 2012 Udinese v Cesena Atalanta v AC Milan Bologna v Catania Lecce v Juventus Novara v Fiorentina Roma v Chievo Palermo v Napoli

England EPL

Wednesday, 11 January 2012 Tottenham v Everton Saturday, 14 January 2012 Aston Villa v Evertor Blackburn v Fulham Chelsea v Sunderland Liverpool v Stoke Man Utd v Bolton Tottenham v Wolverhampton West Brom v Norwich Sunday, 15 January 2012 Newcastle v QPR vansea v Arsenal Monday, 16 January 2012 Wigan v Man City

The Championship

Wednesday, 11 January 2012 Birmingham v Ipswich Saturday, 14 January 2012 Brighton v Bristol City Crystal Palace v Leeds Derby v Coventry Doncaster v Cardiff Hull v Peterborough pswich v Blackpool Leicester v Barnsley Middlesbrough v Burnley Millwall v Birmingham Nott'm Forest v Southampton Portsmouth v West Ham Watford v Reading

Saturday, 14 January 2012 St Johnstone v Rangers Aberdeen v Kilmarnock Celtic v Dundee Utd Dunfermline v Hibernian Hearts v St Mirren Motherwell v Inverness CT

Saturday, 21 January 2012 Aris Salonika v Giannina Asteras Tripoli v Panetolikos Atromitos v OFI Crete Ergotelis v Panionios FC Xanthi v PAOK Salonika Panathinaikos v Kerkyra

Spain

Saturday, 7 January 2012 Levante v Mallorca Racing Santander v Real Zaragoza Real Sociedad v Osasuna Real Madrid v Granada Malaga v Atletico Madrid Rayo Vallecano y Sevilla Getafe v Athletic Bilbao Villarreal v Valencia Real Betis v Sporting Gijon Espanyol v Barcelona

ADO Den Haag v Roda JO Saturday, 21 January 2012
De Graafschap v Heerenveer SC Excelsior Rotterdam v NAC FC Twente v RKC Waal Sunday, 22 January 2012 Vitesse v NEC AZ Alkmaar v Ajax FC Groningen v Heracles VVV Venlo v Feyenoord FC Utrecht v PSV Eindhoven

Portuga

Sunday, 8 Jan 2012 Beira Mar v Braga Gil Vicente v Naciona Guimaraes v Feirense Rio Ave v Pacos Ferreira

Sporting v FC Porto Uniao Leiria v Benfica Vitoria Setubal v

27

15 Real Sociedad

16 Rayo Vallecano

18 Sporting Gijón

17 Villarreal

1 AZ 2 PSV

4 Ajax

3 Twente

5 Feyenoord

6 Vitesse 7 Heerenveen

8 Groningen

15 NEC

18 Excelsion

9 Roda JC 10 NAC Breda



23

23

-10

16 11 19 Racing Santander 16 2 8 4 20 Real Zaragoza 16 2 10 13 31 -18 HOLLAND Eredivisie



SPI

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent fir
1 Celtic	22	17	2	3	44	15	+29	53	WWWWW
2 Rangers	22	16	3	3	40	12	+28	51	WLLWW
3 Motherwell	20	10	4	6	24	24	+0	34	LLDWD
4 Heart of Midlo	22	9	5	8	25	15	+10	32	WDWWL
5 St. Johnstone	21	9	5	7	26	20	+6	32	WWLLL
6 Dundee United	22	6	8	8	31	35	-4	26	LDWDW
7 Kilmarnock	21	6	8	7	27	31	-4	26	WLLDW
8 St. Mirren	22	6	8	8	23	29	-6	26	LDWDD
9 Aberdeen	22	6	6	10	25	29	-4	24	WDLWW
10 Inverness CT	21	5	4	12	28	40	-12	19	DWLLW
11 Hibernian	21	3	6	12	19	36	-17	15	LDLLL
12 Dunfermline At	20	3	5	12	20	46	-26	14	LLLLD

18 Freiburg 10 21 39 THE CHAMPIONSHIP



LEAGUE ONE

Last5games Most recent first W L W D D L F A GD Pts Р W D 1 Charlton Athletic 49 +30 2 Sheffield Wedn. 3 Sheffield United 15 14 13 24 45 +14 49 WWLDW LWWWW 24 48 4 Milton Keynes Dons 25 +23 46 WDWLW 44 24 10 38 LWWWD 6 Stevenage +12 10 9 10 38 35 34 7 Carlisle United 24 24 WDDDW 8 Brentford LDDDW7 10 24 9 Bury WLWDL 10 AFC Bournemouth 33 9 10 DLLLL 11 Notts County 12 Colchester United 13 Preston North End LWLWW DLDWD 24 24 24 32 32 14 Oldham Athletic 31 DWLDL 15 Leyton Orient 9 10 16 Tranmere Rovers 23 29 LWLLL 17 Hartlepool United 18 Scunthorpe United 24 24 24 LLWLL WDLDL 10 19 Walsall 10 23 30 22 LDWDD DLLDW 21 Yeovil Town 26 21 28 40 39 45 20 20 16 22 Wycombe Wanderers -12 LLWDW 23 24 11 14 -16 -16 24 Chesterfield DDLDL

LEAGUE TWO

Last5games Most recent first D W L D W GD Pts W F D L Α Crawley Town 2 Cheltenham Town 21 WWDDW 24 15 37 +16 49 3 Southend United 42 24 +18 46 $\mathsf{D}\,\mathsf{W}\,\mathsf{L}\,\mathsf{L}\,\mathsf{D}$ 13 19 +19 43 WWLWD 4 Swindon Town 38 D L D W L W L W W D 5 Shrewsbury Town 12 35 41 24 29 +11 42 41 Gillingham 7 Burton Albion 11 +2 40 LDWDL D D W W D 8 Oxford United 33 24 +9 10 9 Torquay United +6 38 W L D W W 10 Rotherham United 10 +5 +6 37 36 11 Accrington Stanley 12 Morecambe 28 +11 35 WDLLD 13 Port Vale 14 Macclesfield Town LLWWW LWDLD +8 -3 10 23 26 30 15 Crewe Alexandra 16 Aldershot Town -6 30 -5 27 -16 26 LWLDD LDLWL 29 24 35 29 17 AFC Wimbledon 24 12 46 LLLLL LWWWD LLLLD -5 -17 19 Bristol Rovers 24 30 23 20 Barnet 21 Hereford United -17 -16 WLLDL 45 39 23 22 41 22 Dagenham & Red 24 15 25 -16 DWWDL DLLLD LDWDD 24 Plymouth Argyle

Greece Super League



France Ligue 1

19 3

20 Ajaccio

Last5games Most recent first WDLFA GD Pts 1 PSG +14 40 WDWWL 12 31 39 17 2 Montpellier +16 37 LDLWW 3 Lille 33 19 +14 DDWWW 4 Olympique Lyon +10 LWWWW5 Stade Rennes 29 23 +6 32 WLDLW 6 Olympique Mars. 27 20 WWDWW 7 Toulouse DDWLW 8 Saint-Étienne 19 23 +2 LWWDW DLLLW 9 Lorient 10 Bordeaux 20 22 LWDWW -2 +0 12 Brest DWDDL WLWLL 13 Valenciennes 19 19 21 14 Caen 15 Auxerre 19 26 30 19 DLWLL 16 Dijon 17 Nice 35 23 DWLWL 18 Nancy 9 9 10 17 21 20 26 34 LWDLL

Portugal Premeira Liga

Last5games Most recent first W W W D W W L F GD Pts D Α 1 Porto 10 32 +24 33 2 Benfica 3 Sporting CP W W W D W D W L W W 10 30 26 +19 33 27 4 Sporting Braga 13 24 12 +12 25 WWLDD Marítimo 16 17 +2 22 17 LLDWD 13 6 Académica +0 DWLLD WLWWL DLWDD Beira-Mai +3 -7 3 Gil Vicente 9 Vitória Guimarães +2 DLWWW 10 Olhanense 11 Feirense WDWLL DDLDL 12 Vitória Setúbal 13 13 19 23 -10 -9 13 13 União de Leiria 4 14 Nacional 13 24 -15 12 DLDLW 15 Rio Ave 16 Paços de Ferreira LWLWL LLDLL

...Results...Results....Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

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Barclays Premier League

Everton 1-2 Bolton Newcastle United 3-0 Manchester United

Barclays Premier League

Man City 3-0 Liverpool Wigan 1-4 Sunderland npower Championship

Bristol City 1-0 Millwall

londay, 2 January 2012 Aston Villa 0-2 Swansea Blackburn 1-2 Stoke Fulham 2-1 Arsenal QPR 1-2 Norwich

npower Championship Blackpool 3-0 Middlesbrough Brighton 3-0 Southampton Cardiff 3-1 Reading Crystal Palace 1-2 Leicester Doncaster 2-0 Barnsley

Hull 0-1 Derby

Ipswich 1-3 Nott'm Forest

Leeds 2-1 Burnley Peterborough 1-1 Birmingham

West Ham 1-0 Coventry

Charlton 2-0 Brentford Chesterfield 1-1 Oldham Exeter 1-1 Yeovi Scunthorpe MK Dons 1-0 Colchester Notts County 2-2 Huddersfield Rochdale 1-1 Preston Sheffield Wed 2-1 Tranmere

Npower League Two Accrington Stanley 4-0 Macclesfield Barnet 2-0 Bristol Rovers Burton Albion 0-2 Hereford Crewe 0-1 Morecambe Gillingham 1-0 Aldershot Oxford Utd 1-1 Crawley Town Plymouth 1-2 Torquay Port Vale 1-2 Cheltenham Rotherham 3-0 Bradford

Dundee Utd 1-2 Aberdeen Dunfermline 0-3 Celtic Hibernian 1-3 Hearts Kilmarnock 2-1 St Mirren

IRN-BRU Scottish First Division Livingston 1-2 Falkirk Morton 3-1 Ayr Raith Rovers 0-1 Dundee

IRN-BRU Scottish Third Division Berwick 2-2 Montrose

day, 1 January 2012 **Barclays Premier League** Sunderland 1-0 Man City West Brom 0-1 Everton

Barclays Premier League Arsenal 1-0 QPR
Bolton 1-1 Wolverhampton Chelsea 1-3 Aston Villa Man Utd 2-3 Blackburn Norwich 1-1 Fulham

Stoke 2-2 Wigan Swansea 1-1 Tottenham

WWDLL

Barnsley 4-1 Leeds Birmingham 3-0 Blackpool Burnley 1-0 Hull Coventry 2-0 Brightor Derby 2-1 West Ham Leicester 1-1 Portsmouth Middlesbrough 1-1 Peterborough Millwall 0-1 Crystal Palace Nott'm Forest 0-1 Cardiff Reading 1-0 Ipswich Watford 4-1 Doncaster

npower League One Brentford 3-3 MK Dons Colchester 2-0 Exeter Leyton Orient 1-0 Charlton Oldham 3-2 Notts County Preston 0-2 Sheffield Wed Scunthorpe 2-2 Chesterfield Sheffield Utd 3-1 Hartlepool Walsall 0-0 Rochdale

Npower League Two AFC Wimbledon 1-4 Southend Aldershot 0-0 Plymouth Bradford 3-1 Shrewsbury Bristol Rovers 2-5 Crev Macclesfield 2-1 Port Vale Morecambe 2-2 Burton Albion

IRN-BRU Scottish Third Division Stranraer 4-2 Annan Athletic Blue Square Bet Conference South Basingstoke 1-3 Maidenhead Utd

Barclays Premier League Liverpool 3-1 Newcastle npower Championship npower League One Huddersfield 1-1 Carlisle Tranmere 2-0 Bury

Npower League Two Cheltenham 1-0 Rotherham Crawley Town 1-0 Barnet Hereford 1-1 Accrington Stanley

Portsmouth 2-0 Watford Clydesdale Bank Scottish Premier League Wycombe 0-1 Stevenage Saturday, 31 December 2011

npower League One Bournemouth 2-0 Wycombe Bury 2-1 Walsall
Carlisle 3-2 Sheffield Utd

Stevenage 0-1 Leyton Orien

Shrewsbury 1-1 Northamptor Southend 1-1 Dag & Red Swindon 2-0 AFC Wimbledon

IRN-BRU Scottish Second Division Airdrie Utd 1-0 Albion Brechin 2-1 Forfar Cowdenbeath 4-0 East Fife Dumbarton 3-2 Arbroath Stirling 3-1 Stenhousemuir

Clyde 1-2 Queen's Park East Stirling 1-3 Alloa Peterhead 3-0 Elgin Blue Square Bet Conference North Blyth Spartans 0-3 Workington

Yeovil 1-3 Bournemouth

Torquay 0-0 Oxford Utd

Southampton 0-1 Bristol City



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MFS



Soccer Fever



Kanga Cup



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